



Facility Inspection Report Issued By The Minnesota Department of Corrections Pursuant to MN Statute 241.021, Subdivision 1

Inspection and Enforcement Unit, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200, St.Paul MN 55108
Telephone: 651-361-7146 Fax: 651-642-0314 Email: ie-support.doc@state.mn.us

INSPECTION DETAILS FOR:

Watonwan County Jail

Address: 715 Third Avenue, PO BOX 168, St. James, MN 56081

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Jen Pfeifer – Senior Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 02/23/2022

Inspection Method: Facility tour, staff and resident interviews, employee and resident file reviews, and related documentation reviews.

Officials Present During Inspection: Jail Administrator Julie Carr; Sheriff Jared Bergeman

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Jail Administrator Julie Carr

Issued Inspection Report to: Jail Administrator Julie Carr; Sheriff Jared Bergeman; County Auditor Kelly Pauling; Regional Manager Dayna Burmeister

RULE COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Rule Chapter	Requirement Type	Total Applicable	Total Compliance	Total Non Compliance	Total Compliance With Concerns	Compliance Rating	Substantial Compliance Result/Criteria
2911	Mandatory	127	125	2	0	98.43%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	100	99	1	0	99.00%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 04/01/2022 **Ends On:** 03/31/2024 **Facility Type:** 90 Day Lockup
Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 03/31/2023
Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 24 hrs exclusive of weekends and holidays **Certificate Holder:** Watonwan County Sheriff's Office
Special Conditions: None.

Approved Capacity Details **Operational Capacity is calculated as a percent of Approved Capacity beds.*

Bed Type	Gender	Approved Capacity	%Operating Capacity	Operational Capacity	Bed Details	Conditions
Secure	Coed	20	80	16.00	None.	None.

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance**Total: 2**

1. 2911.5000 POST ORDERS; FORMAL INMATE COUNT; WELL-BEING CHECKS. Subpart 5. Well-being.

A facility shall have a system providing for well-being checks of inmates. A written policy and procedure shall provide that all inmates are personally observed by a custody staff person at least once every 30 minutes. Thirty-minute checks should be staggered. If a well-being check does not occur due to an emergency, it must be documented in the jail log and have supervisory review and approval. More frequent observation is required for those inmates of a special need classification who may be harmful to themselves. Examples of inmates of a special need classification include those classified as potentially suicidal, or as mentally ill, or those experiencing withdrawal from drugs or alcohol.

Inspection Findings:

Well-being checks were observed through video footage to be out of compliance with the rule. Well-being checks were observed out of compliance with the 30 minute time frame allowed in the rule on 02/21/2022 (1120-1151), 02/18/2022 (1831-1903), and 02/18/2022 (0041-0114).

Staff was observed distracted on a cell phone while completing a well-being check on 02/19/2022 at 0135 and is observed not looking into all cells while completing the required checks.

Corrective Actions:

All correctional staff shall complete retraining of proper well-being checks. This training shall be documented and sent to the Department of Corrections. The jail administrator shall complete bi-monthly audits of well-being checks of all staff and submit those to the Department of Corrections on the 15th and the 30th of each month. This is to be completed until the facility is in substantial compliance with the rule.

Response Needed By: 03/15/2022

2. 2911.7100 INMATES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. Subpart 1. Postadmission screening.

The facility written policy and procedure shall require postadmission screening and referral for care of inmates with special needs, whose adaptation to the correctional environment in significantly impaired.

Inspection Findings:

The facility has a policy for the deaf and hard of hearing, but it does not reflect current practice. The facility does not have adaptive equipment for the deaf or hard of hearing if needed.

Corrective Actions:

The facility will need to develop a process to reflect what is in their policy. The facility will need to ensure that they have any adaptive equipment that may be needed for those inmates who are significantly impaired.

Response Needed By: 03/31/2022**Chapter 2911 - Essential Rules Not In Compliance****Total: 1**

1. 2911.3100 INMATE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS. Subpart 7. Recreation plan.

The facility administrator or designee shall have a plan providing opportunities for physical exercise and recreational activities for all inmates consistent with the facility's classification and design. Class I facilities are exempt from this requirement. The plan shall include policies and procedures necessary to protect the facility's security and the welfare of inmates. Policy and procedure shall provide: A. inmates with access to recreational opportunities and equipment, including seven hours of physical exercise or recreation outside the cell and adjacent dayroom areas per week; B. recreational opportunities a minimum of five days per week; C. indoor space and equipment for active recreational activities in all Class II to Class VI facilities; D. outdoor recreational space and equipment for outdoor recreational programming in all Class VI facilities. The space and equipment shall be provided in a manner consistent with the facility's security classification; E. passive and active recreation needs and equipment for a variety of inmates consistent with the facility's classification and offenders served. As an example, activity needs of geriatric, disabled, or geriatric and disabled offenders shall be addressed; F. inmates in segregation with a minimum of one hour a day, seven days a week, of exercise outside the inmates' cells, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise; and G. discretionary access by inmates on segregation status to the same recreational facilities as other inmates unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise. When inmates on segregation status are excluded from use of regular recreation facilities, the alternative area for exercise used shall be documented.

Inspection Findings:

The jail has no active recreation space.

Corrective Actions:

There is no corrective action at this time due to physical plant restraints. This would require a major remodel.

Response Needed By:

INSPECTION COMMENTS

The facility will be starting a remodel of the bathrooms and floors in the facility the first week of April. The project has been approved and no inmates will be housed in the facility during the remodel.

Well-being checks were observed through video review to be out of compliance with the 30 minute time allowed by the rule. Well-being checks were observed to be completed at too fast a pace to ensure the safety and well-being of the inmate. A correctional officer was observed as distracted on a cell phone while completing a well-being check.

Maintenance requests are not being handled within an acceptable time frame. After reviewing weekly fire inspection check-list there were items listed that needed to be addressed for over a year. Maintenance requests need to be handled in a timely manner.

Policy will need to updated to reflect the new statute language in 241.021. Once the updates are made, those policies shall be sent to the inspector.

The jail will be placed on biennial inspections at this time with the understanding that the inspector will be doing periodic spot checks of well-being checks to ensure compliance with rule.

JJDP A Compliance

Compliance Report for the Monitoring Facilities Pursuant to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002.

On February 23,2022, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act audit was conducted. The Watonwan County Jail has received a "Rural Exception" to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). This allows the facility to hold a delinquent juvenile up to 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. There are three core requirements that are looked at during our facility review. Those core requirements are Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Removal of Juveniles for Adult Jail and Adult Lockups (Jail Removal), and Sight and Sound separation.

I reviewed approximately 100 percent of the juvenile data and files from October 1, 2021 to February 23, 2022. The facility held 2 juveniles in the facility during this time period. The findings are as follows:

DSO: I did not find any violations of the facility holding status offenders in the jail. Upon review of the files, indication was that children that were brought into the facility were indeed there for delinquent offenses.

Jail Removal: Files and DOC Portal data indicate that any children brought into the jail are removed well within the 24 hour time frame allowed per the "Rural Exception."

Sight and Sound Separation: The facility design and policies allow for proper sight and sound separation. Juvenile court times are held separately from adults and policy reflects this.

Court Holding: Court holding is located upstairs in the courthouse adjacent to the jail. Juvenile court times are time phased from adults for sight and sound separation. It is a nonsecure court holding but is monitored by staff at all time when court holding is being occupied.

The facility does not participate in any "Scared Straight" programs for any youth that are under public authority.

Based on the documentation that I reviewed, I did not find any violations of the JJDP Act during the Watonwan County inspection.

Report completed By: Jen Pfeifer – Senior Detention Facility Inspector

Signature: _____

