Bruce Rauner
Governor

John Baldwin
Acting Director

The Illinois Department of Corrections

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February 22, 2018

Executive Director Dr. Nneka Jones
Cook County Department of Corrections
2700 South California Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Director Jones:

Attached are the inspections of the Cook County Department of Corrections including housing units and Cermak Hospital conducted November 27-30: 2017 (see attached addenda for housing unit findings). The inspections were conducted by Criminal Justice Specialist Errica Weatherspoon of the Office of Jail and Detention Standards along with Mr. George Holley, Assistant Administrator – Policy, Office of Operations and Program Audits. In summary, changes, improvements and noncompliance's discovered are as follows: See Addendums for Noncompliance's

Division Changes:

1. Division 2 – Closed: Effective 11/19/17.
2. Division 4 – Male housing unit: Effective 11/19/17 (previously housed female inmates).
3. Division 4 Annex – Male housing unit: Effective 11/19/17 (formerly Div. 2, Dorm 4).
4. Division 6- No changes
5. Division 08 RTU- Male and female housing unit- (detox, mental health, and miscellaneous medical unit).
6. Division 08 RTU Annex – Female housing unit: Effective 11/19/17 (formerly known as Div. 5).
7. Division 9- No Changes
8. Division 10- No Changes
9. Division 11- No Changes

- Divisions 1, 3, & 17 were closed in 2016 with Divisions 3 & 17 being demolished.

Improvements

Division 4 – None

Division 4 Annex- None

Division 6 - None

Division 8 RTU

1. Glow stick keys have been distributed in the unit.
2. Color-coded emergency exits in the unit have been completed.

Division 8RTU Annex

1. Division 8 RTU ANNEX is now a female housing unit (formerly known as Division 5).

Division 9- None

Division 10

1. Hand- held radios distributed in the unit.
2. Television enclosures updated throughout unit.

Division 11

1. Guard tower being constructed at front entrance for secure entry.
2. Shower painting initiative has been completed.

Noncompliance's

See Addendums for each Division note: ***Illinois County Jail Standards*** for references.

Division 4 Annex

Section 701.40 N.) Cell Assignment 1.) The detainee shall be assigned to suitable orders.

1. **Bed Sheets were observed hanging in the shower area and toilet area.**
2. **Mattresses were observed on the dayroom floor**.

Division 6

Section 701.120 Sanitation A.) General Requirements

1. **Some cells and vents and windows were observed to be covered with paper.**

Division 9

Section 701.40 N.) Cell Assignment 1.) The detainee shall be assigned to suitable orders.

1. **Bed sheets were observed to be hanging in the shower area. This is a security risk and only a security approved shower curtain should be used**.

Division 10

Section 701.40 N.) Cell Assignment 1.) The detainee shall be assigned to suitable orders.

1. **Bed sheets were observed to be hanging in the shower area. This is a security risk and only a security approved shower curtain should be used.**

Section 701.120 Sanitation B.) Facility Equipment 1.) Toilets, washbasins, shower stalls, and sinks shall be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each day with detergent and a germicidal agent.

2. **Mold was observed in the shower area and ceiling.**

Section 701.100 Clothing, Personal Hygiene, Grooming A.) Cleanliness 2.) When Clothing is provided by the jail, clean clothing should be issued at least twice weekly.

3. **Division was not able to provide adequate jumpsuits due to low inventory**.

Division 11

Section 701.40 N.) Cell Assignment 1.) The detainee shall be assigned to suitable orders.

1. **Bed sheets were observed to be hanging in the shower area. This is a security risk and only a security approved shower curtain should be used.**

2. **Television cords were observed to be hanging from the television.**

Cermak Hospital

Section 701.40 N.) Cell Assignment 1.) The detainee shall be assigned to suitable orders.

1. **Television cords were observed to be hanging from televisions.**

Recommendations/Notes

1. On the inspection dates, the inspector observed shower and toilet areas using bed sheets as clothing lines, shower curtains, and privacy screens. Bed sheets pose a serious risk of detainee harm and/or incidental risk. It is recommended that the Cook County Jail provide security approved shower curtains.

2. The television enclosure initiative is in its' final completion stage, however; some living units were observed to have television wires and chords hanging freely which have the potential for injury risk. It is recommended that the Cook County Jail remove wire or chords that are not in use.

Sincerely

Mike Funk
Manager
Jail and Detention Standards Unit

Enclosure

cc: Sheriff Thomas Dart
Cook County Clerk David Orr
Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle
Criminal Justice Specialist Errica Weatherspoon