



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
JOHN BALDWIN, DIRECTOR

April 25, 2013

Jeff Madlom, Chairman
Delaware County Supervisors
Courthouse, East Main Street
Manchester, Iowa 50257

Re: Delaware County Jail Inspection

Dear Chairman Madlom:

The Delaware County Jail was inspected by the Iowa Department of Corrections on April 23, 2013, as required by Iowa Code Section 356, to ensure compliance with Chapter 201-50 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The inspection included an examination of staff training records, required documentation, prisoner files, jail policy and procedures and a tour of the jail. Please note the following Iowa Administrative Code Sections, comments and recommendations for corrective action:

IAC 201-50.13(356,356A) Admission/Classification and Security.

50.13(1) Admission and classification.

b. With the exception of incidental contact under staff supervision, the following classes of prisoners shall be kept separate by architectural design barring conversational and visual contact from each other:

(1) Juveniles and adults (pursuant to Iowa Code section 356.3).

(2) Females from males (exception-alternative jail facilities) (pursuant to Iowa Code section 356.4).

50.13(2) Security and control. The jail administrator shall develop and implement written policies and procedures for the jail which provide for the control of prisoners and for the safety of the public and the jail staff. The policy and procedures shall include:

(5) When females are housed in the jail, at least one female staff member shall be on duty in the jail at all times, in accordance with Iowa Code section 356.5(6) (does not apply to alternative jail facilities).

Comment: Due to the architectural design of the jail, sight and sound separation is very difficult. There are also times when a female staff member is not on duty.

Corrective action: Female prisoners should not be housed in cells located on the east side of the jail during times that male prisoners are held on the east side, as casual conversation cannot be prevented unless staff are present. Anytime a female is incarcerated, a jail certified female staff member shall be in the jail at all times.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:

To advance successful offender reentry to protect the public, staff and offenders from victimization.

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IAC 201—50.9(356,356A) Fire safety and emergency evacuation.

50.9(11) Mattresses. Only fire-resistant mattresses of a type that will not sustain a flame and certified by an independent testing laboratory and that meet the standards established by the state fire marshal shall be used in jails. Mattresses that are ripped, excessively cracked or which contain large holes shall be replaced. Pillows shall be replaced when torn or excessively cracked.

Comment: Several mattresses are showing signs of excessive wear.

Corrective action: Please replace the mattresses that are in a deteriorated condition.

Additional comments

Hourly jail checks are being conducted and documented very well.

The design of the jail creates some security concerns which were noted during previous inspections. Prisoners have to be moved through non-secure areas for exercise. This continues to be a safety and security concern for the prisoners, staff and public.

The Delaware County Jail is an older facility that requires continuous maintenance and does not meet the needs of the prisoners, staff or the public. Staff is commended for a well-managed and very clean older facility.

The public entrance to the jail is a safety and security concern. The jail has a locked door, but the public is allowed to enter to visit, post bond, along with other legitimate business they have with the jail. Once inside the door, the public has an unrestricted access throughout the sheriff's office and jail. It is suggested a security barrier be installed to enhance the safety and security concerns of staff, public and the prisoners.

Upon completion of the above corrective actions, the Delaware County Jail will be in compliance with Chapter 201-50 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

It is a pleasure to work with professional staff that desires to make the changes that they can to operate a safe and secure facility for the prisoners, public and staff.

I wish to thank Jail Administrator Deputy Casey Snyder, Jailers Megan Noram, and the entire staff for their cooperation and assistance during the inspection.

Sincerely,
Delbert G. Longley
Chief Jail Inspector

cc: Sheriff
County Attorney
File