

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
JAIL INSPECTION REPORT**

Facility Name: Falls County Jail

Date:

March 22, 2019

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	259	.156	<p>Power operated locks shall be motor, solenoid, or pneumatic type and provide electrical control unlocking, key unlocking by manual operation, and automatic mechanical deadlocking of doors upon closing.</p> <p>Jail staff were unable to open Cell 141 remotely from the control room as required.</p>
2	263	.41	<p>Training of staff for emergency situations shall be provided immediately upon employment and no less than each calendar quarter for all jail personnel to include fire, emergency, evacuation drills, and location and use of equipment.</p> <p>During a review of life safety paperwork, it was determined that staff are not being provided training for emergency situations immediately upon hire as required by minimum jail standards.</p>
3	265	.13(a)	<p>Each sheriff/operator shall investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner by using data made available from the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) operated by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs or similar service.</p> <p>During a review of the VRSS program, it was determined that jail staff are not verifying the status of veterans through the US Department of Veterans Affairs website or similar service as required.</p>
4	271	.1(a)(8)(F)	<p>Prisoners in transit shall not be held in a facility for more than 48 consecutive hours.</p> <p>During a review of inmate housing records, it was determined that prisoners in transit from US Corrections are held in the facility longer than 48 consecutive hours.</p>
5	271	.1(b)(3)	<p>Custody Reassessment/Review. A custody reassessment shall be conducted within 30 - 90 days of the Initial Custody Assessment and immediately upon any disciplinary action and/or change in legal status which would affect classification.</p> <p>During a review of inmate classification files, it was determined that inmates are not being reassessed within 30-90 days as required by minimum jail standards.</p>
6	271	.2	<p>Each sheriff/operator shall establish a housing scheme designating the construction security level (minimum, medium, maximum) of each facility, housing unit and bed. Custody level assignments shall not exceed the construction security level.</p> <p>During a review of inmate housing, it was determined that there were times in which jail staff housed inmates in the library and exceeding the housing capacity of general population cells causing inmates to sleep on the floor.</p>
7	273	.5(b)	<p>Identification. Procedures for intake screening to identify inmates who are known to be or observed to be mentally disabled and/or potentially suicidal and procedures for compliance with Code of Criminal Procedure Article 16.22 and referrals to available mental health officials</p> <p>During a review of inmate medical files, it was determined that jail staff are not notifying the magistrate on contract out of county and transit inmates.</p>
8	275	.1	<p>Observation shall be performed at least every 30 minutes in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined.</p>

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During a review of observation logs, it was determined that staff are exceeding the required face-to-face, 30 minute observations in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined. Jail staff exceeded the 30 minute requirement by as few as 1 minute up to 17 minutes on a continual basis.

9 275 .2 Jailer Training and Licensing. Personnel employed or appointed as jailers of county jails or personnel appointed, employed, or assigned to directly supervise jailers shall be licensed as per the requirements of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement under the provisions of Part 7 of this title. Personnel employed or appointed as jailers or personnel appointed, employed, or assigned to directly supervise jailers at facilities operated under vendor contract with a county or city shall be licensed as per the requirements of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement under the provisions of Part 7 of this title.

During the review of the facility staffing records, this inspector observed that there were two jailers working on the floor that did not have a jailers license through TCOLE as required.

10 279 .1(2) Food preparation areas shall be inspected at least annually by health authorities and record kept for each inspection.

During a review of food service paperwork, it was determined that the last annual health inspection was performed on 4/24/2017 which is almost two years past due.

11 281 .3 Balanced Diet. Except in emergency situations, meals shall be served in accordance with a written menu approved and reviewed annually for compliance with nationally recognized allowances for basic nutrition including nutritional requirements of known pregnant inmates. This approval and review shall be documented and should be performed by a licensed or provisional licensed dietitian.

During a review of food service paperwork, it was determined that the menu has not been reviewed annually as required. The menu was last approved by a dietician on 6/29/2017.

12 283 .1(3)(C) Disciplinary Due Process Requirements: Provisions shall be made for at least twenty-four hours written notice to be given to the inmate of the claimed violation or charges against him/her.

During a review of inmate disciplinary reports, it was determined that staff are not providing inmates with 24 hours written notice of the charges filed against them as required by minimum jail standards.

13 283 .3(3) Every facility shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission, for inmate grievance procedures. This plan shall be an administrative means for the resolution of grievances. It supplements, but does not replace any informal grievance procedure. Each plan shall: provide maximum time limits not to exceed 60 days with interim response not to exceed 15 days for written replies by the grievance board

During a review of inmate grievances, it was determined that jail staff are not providing an interim response within 15 days as required by minimum jail standards.

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Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission, for inmate physical exercise and physical recreation. Documentation of physical exercise and physical recreation shall be maintained for Commission review. Each inmate shall be allowed one hour of supervised physical exercise or physical recreation at least three days per week.

During a review of inmate recreation logs, it was determined that staff are not offering inmates one hour of supervised physical exercise or physical recreation at least three days per week as required by minimum jail standards.

-William Phariss
William T. Phariss - TCJS Inspector