



# Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

## Office of Detention Facilities

December 3, 2019

Sheriff Jeffrey Wallace  
Rusk County Sheriff's Department  
311 E. Miner Ave, Suite L100  
Ladysmith, WI 54848

### **Re: 2019 Annual Inspection**

Dear Sheriff Wallace:

On October 2, 2019, the annual inspection of the Rusk County Jail was conducted pursuant to WI Statute 301.37(3). The inspection compared the facility and its operation to applicable state statutes and Department of Corrections' Administrative Code Chapter DOC 350. This inspection consisted of a tour of the facility; interviews with administration, staff and inmates; review of inmate files; a review of the policy and procedure manual; and a review of facility records and documentation.

The maximum rated capacity of the facility is 52. On the day of the inspection, there were 31 inmates incarcerated in the facility.

### **Improvements since previous Inspection**

- Switched to Spillman for the new jail management system.
- Painted the common areas of the jail.
- Additional cameras were installed within the jail and outside cameras were replaced.
- Issued body cameras for staff to wear.
- Purchased a "Rescue Randy" for staff training.
- Purchased a new restraint chair.
- Changed to electronic inmate jail files.

### **Goals and Initiatives**

- Purchase an industrial washer and dryer.
- Fill vacant positions within the jail.
- Finish painting the jail.
- Remove all counters and cabinets from the old kitchen.
- Increase the amount of POSC training for staff.
- Continue working towards PREA compliance.
- Install a drug and alcohol testing kiosk.

- Review and update policy manual.
- Purchase a RAAC belt for court security.

### **Summary of Jail Operations**

I met with the administrative, security, healthcare, and foodservice staff to conduct the annual inspection. The site visit included a review of the facility records and documentation, as well as a walkthrough of the detention areas.

An area of concern that is referenced annually is that the Dispatch Center is located centrally within the jail. With a minimum staffing pattern of three staff assigned per shift, one assigned strictly to Dispatch and two to the jail, it makes it difficult to provide proper supervision of inmates when 911 calls come into Dispatch. Staff then needs to assist in Dispatch with emergency calls, limiting the amount of staff providing assistance and proper supervision on the floor. It is recommended that Control Center and Dispatch be separated so staff can focus on their jail duties.

Another area which I feel the jail could benefit from is the addition of a first line supervisor. This person would provide supervision on other shifts, assist with day-to-day operations along with assisting the Jail Administrator to move forward with new initiatives.

In summary, the overall appearance of the jail was in satisfactory condition. It is apparent that both staff and inmates are held accountable for the cleanliness of the facility. After a walkthrough of the detention areas, there were no repetitive complaints from inmates regarding conditions of confinement or staff supervision. The staff are to be commended for the overall positive climate and their observed professional interaction with inmates.

### **Programs**

The Rusk County Jail provides the following programs for both male and female inmates:

- WITC basic education
- Anger Management
- Aurora AODA
- Bible study's- a few different congregations
- Pregnancy Resource Center-parenting class
- Sunday Church Service
- 12 Step
- AA
- NA
- Embrace victims services
- STI testing
- Inmate Work Program
- Mobile Crisis
- Hepatitis A and B vaccine

**The following Codes were found not to be in Compliance:**

*Corrective Actions*

- 350.18(1) – A review of documented well-being checks showed multiple checks over the allotted 60 minute time frame.
- 350.24 – A review of disciplinary material showed minor dispositions had restrictions of privileges for more than 24 hours. A review of major disciplinary material failed to show what discipline was issued for major violations.
- 350.17(10) – A review of documentation regarding inmates who are placed on suicide watch failed to show who initiated the suicide watch placement; name, date and time the supervisor was contacted; and the documentation of the qualified mental health professional removing the inmate from a suicide watch.

**Recommendations:**

- It is recommended that a supervisor review and sign off on all inmate discipline to ensure the discipline is appropriate and accurate.

**Approval**

The Rusk County Jail is approved by the Department of Corrections for the secure detention of adult inmates with the maximum capacity of 52.

I wish to thank Captain Murray and his staff for their assistance, cooperation and professionalism during the inspection process.

If you have any questions regarding the inspection results summarized in this letter, or if I may be of any assistance regarding correctional matters, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoover  
Detention Facilities Specialist

cc: George Murray, Jail Administrator  
Melissa Roberts, Director-ODF  
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