

# District of Columbia Corrections Information Council



## Department of Corrections Central Detention Facility and Correctional Treatment Facility

### Report on Findings and Recommendations



*Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF)*



*Central Detention Facility (CDF)*

December 4, 2023



## District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

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### About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where residents from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of residents, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

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## Central Detention Facility Profile

**Dates of Inspection:** April 13, 2023  
**Location:** SE, Washington, DC  
**Security Level:** Minimum, Medium, Maximum

**Rated Capacity:** 2,164  
**4/13/2023 Population:** 922

## Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

**Date of Inspection:** April 13, 2023  
**Location:** SE, Washington, DC  
**Security Level:** Minimum, Medium

**Rated Capacity:** 1400  
**4/13/2023 Population:** 350

## Introduction

The CIC visited both the Central Detention Facility (CDF) and Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) on April 13, 2023, as part of the CIC's mandate to inspect DOC facilities quarterly.

During the visits at CDF and CTF, CIC learned that everyone at both facilities has a tablet, including those in restrictive housing units. These tablets allow residents to have more access to programming and communication with their outside support systems.

## Key Findings

The CIC highlights the following facility practices:

- Every resident in DOC custody has access to a GTL and ADPS tablet, including those in restrictive housing units.
- Restrictive housing units are now allowed two hours of recreation as opposed to one hour. One of those hours allows for outside recreation if the resident chooses to participate.
- Restrictive Housing now allows seven days of recreation per week for those who are on administrative segregation, and five days of recreation per week for those who are on disciplinary segregation.
- There are multiple phones out of order on multiple housing units (see specific units).

## Central Detention Facility

### **Southeast 1/GED Unit**

**Population: 34**

**Capacity: 50**

- To get onto the GED unit, residents must submit a request, then staff will check disciplinary reports, substance abuse records, and unit capacity.
- This unit offers Free Minds Book Club, Georgetown Street Law, and the Frederick Douglas Project, in addition to GED classes.
- There are four residents enrolled in Ashland College.
- Maya Angelou Public Charter school teachers currently facilitate GED courses.
- English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are available.
- DOC reported new class offerings for Fall for resident certifications, including an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) class.
- Out of eight phones in the unit, three were operable.
- Residents of the Hispanic population communicated that it is hard for them to connect with their visitors on the screen during social visits because their visitors are in other countries which gives cause to connectivity issues on the visiting screen.
- There were two exercise bikes and a treadmill on the unit.

### **South 1/Restrictive Housing Unit**

**Population: 23**

**Capacity: 52**

- Residents are now receiving two hours of recreation: one hour inside and one hour outside.

- Residents who are on Administrative Segregation (AS) are allowed seven days of recreation per week, and residents who are on Disciplinary Segregation (DS) are allowed five days of recreation per week.
- Residents can participate in group therapy (three at a time) with the mental health clinician.
- Residents are allowed to have tablets between the hours of 9 AM and 10 PM.
- Residents can also participate in all religious services via tablet.

### **Northeast 1/Protective Custody Unit**

**Population: 70**

**Capacity: 160**

- Outside recreation in this unit occurs during population counts due to the specialized custody of these residents.
- Residents' work pay increased from \$28 a month to \$90 a month.
- Residents who have special training (e.g. barber, environmental<sup>1</sup>, culinary, and cosmetology training) can qualify for higher pay.
- This unit is split in half, and there are two visiting screens on each side of the unit - but only one is operable on each side.
- Residents in this unit who are considered indigent can receive supplies every week on Mondays.

### **Northeast 2/Substance Abuse Unit**

**Population: 10**

**Capacity: 60**

- This unit is designed for residents who are dependent on narcotics. Residents must see a doctor, participate in the interview process, and have a history of substance abuse.
- Once a resident arrives at the DOC, they are evaluated by a doctor. If placement on this unit is required, they receive 30 to 45 days of intensive care and medication.
- According to the program coordinator, this program has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all treatment centers throughout Washington, D.C. and Maryland.
- As part of treatment, residents participate in acupuncture, art therapy, and meditation/yoga.
- There are five visiting screens in the unit, and two are inoperable.
- There are seven phones in the unit, and three are inoperable.

### **Chapel**

- According to the schedule, the chapel hosts a variety of religious services. During the CIC's visit, there was no Chaplain present at the chapel.
- According to the posted schedule, services should have occurred during the visit. There were no staff or residents in the chapel during that time. The CIC reviewed the sign-in sheets and did not see any names.

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental work deals with the facility, which involves keeping it clean (e.g., mopping, sweeping, buffing, waxing, and knowledge of chemical solutions used for cleaning).

## CDF Recommendations

- It is recommended that DOC fix the phones and visiting screens in those housing units where they are inoperable.
- It is recommended that DOC implement an accurate schedule for religious services and adhere to the schedule so that residents can participate in their services on time.

## Corrections Treatment Facility (CTF)

### Medical 96

- Medical 96 is a housing unit at the CTF for those who have serious medical issues that need monitoring and cannot be housed in the general population due to their injuries or illnesses.
- The CIC received a complaint from the father of a resident in this unit who was recuperating from a gunshot wound to the stomach. The resident had missed several appointments, which caused his stitches to go into his stomach because they were not removed. He had to change and clean his colostomy bag himself, and in some instances, he was repeatedly forced to use the same one because he was not given new ones. In the presence of the CIC, DOC executive staff immediately addressed this medical issue.

### Medical 82

- There are no educational tablets in Medical 82.
- Residents in this medical unit are given two hours of recreation per day.
- Residents expressed that this unit feels like a Restrictive Housing Unit because they are only allowed two hours of recreation a day.

### D1A

**Population: 31**

**Capacity: 37**

- Residents mentioned that they do not have physical access to the law library or programs. They have access through the tablets.
- Residents reported temperature concerns, indicating that it feels like cool air blows out of the vents in the winter months as opposed to heat.

### D2A Young Men Emerging (YME)

**Population: 14**

**Capacity: 32**

- Residents are either enrolled in the GED program or taking Georgetown college classes.
- There are currently three mentors and eleven mentees housed in the unit.
- The mentees are ages 18 through 25.

- Skill programs are offered, including construction, hospitality, soft skills<sup>2</sup>, and consumer workforce math.
- Every morning the residents have group discussions premised upon a variety of different subjects, and the purpose is to interact with each other and foster community building.
- On Saturdays, the young men conduct a community cleanup, when they clean up the housing unit.
- There is a program called Book Crushers University, where the residents read books and then write reports based upon their readings.

#### **C4B – Lead Out Unit**

**Population: 12**

**Capacity: 16**

- All residents are students who are trying to earn their High School Diploma or GED. Students who have an IEP work towards a High School Diploma, and other students work towards a GED.
- The residents reported there are no programs for them after school hours, except for tablet offerings, and they desire to work or participate in other programs outside of the housing unit.
- The Education department explained that this population requires a very focused educational setting, and it is imperative for them to concentrate only on school.

### **CTF Recommendation**

- It is recommended that DOC provide physical access to programs for everyone in the CTF, as opposed to select housing units.

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<sup>2</sup> Soft skills focus on communication, active engagement, teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking.