

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)

April 28, 2023



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member
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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.

DC Corrections Information Council

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Central Detention Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: January 20, 2023
Location: SE, Washington, DC
Security Level: Minimum, Medium, Maximum

Rated Capacity: 2,164
1/20/2023 Population: 922

Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

Date of Inspection: January 20, 2023
Location: SE, Washington, DC
Security Level: Minimum, Medium

Rated Capacity: 1,400
1/20/2023 Population: 350

Introduction

The CIC visited the Central Detention Facility (CDF) and the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). This visit focused on programming at both locations. The CIC received reports that programming had diminished within DOC facilities.

During the CIC's visit at the CDF, there were two program units: SE 1 and NE 2. The only programming that CIC observed were GED classes in SE 1, and there was also a town hall meeting in progress. NE 2 consists of a medical program for individuals who have drug addictions and require the use of Suboxone, Methadone, or Vivitrol.

The CIC also visited programming housing units at the CTF. There are a total of seven. Out of the seven, only one had a program manager to facilitate programming; none of the other units currently have a program manager.

Key Findings

The CIC highlights the following facility practices:

- All restrictions that had been put into place during the COVID 19 medical stay in place has been lifted and normal operations have resumed.
- Correctional officers who have completed the training are now wearing body cameras.
- There is an independent security company working at the staff entry and exit points of both CTF and CDF.
- The Global Tel Link (GTL) phone system is now operable at CTF.
- The Chapel area is now open to everyone in the facility, including outside volunteers, regardless of vaccination status.
- Since the beginning of FY23, there have been 67 resident-on-staff assaults and 71 resident-on-resident assaults at the DOC. Twenty of these assaults include the throwing of substances.
- Since the beginning of FY23, there have been 13 grievances against staff from residents regarding improper staff actions.
- Program managers are needed in the program housing units.
- The DOC educational curriculum is provided by Maya Angelou Public Charter School, and the contract will expire at the end of this school year.

Central Detention Facility (CDF)

Southeast 1/GED Unit

Population: 25

Capacity: 50

- During the visit, there was a town hall meeting occurring within the unit; therefore, CIC could not conduct in-depth interviews, but spoke briefly to some residents.
- The CIC spoke with Unit Manager Sheri Clark who stated that other programs were occurring within this unit in addition to the GED program. CIC did not see other programs during the visit.
- There were eight phones and five visiting screens. All devices were operable.
- There were educational tablets and books displayed on a table for residents to use.
- The CIC did not see any PREA signage within the unit.

Northeast 2/Men's Wellness Unit

Population: 18

Capacity: 60

- The goal of this unit is to immerse patients with Opioid Use Disorders into an intense 90-day treatment program for addiction.

- Priority for this unit is given to residents engaged in Medication Assisted Treatment, and those willing to participate in intensive treatment for their substance use disorder. However, treatment is not mandatory.
- Cohorts begin with 15 residents, and once a resident completes the program - he can stay, get trained, and become a mentor.
- Residents assigned to the unit are prescribed Suboxone, Methadone, and Vivitrol as needed.
- If a resident is scheduled for transfer to another facility, staff are notified in advance to wean an individual off treatment medication prior to departure.
- During the visit, there were ten residents and three staff members in one of the program rooms studying a workbook titled “Helping Men Recover”.
- There are Narcotics Anonymous and Alcohol Anonymous meetings throughout the week.
- Residents have a daily curriculum where they engage in yoga, mindfulness and meditation, art therapy, and trauma-informed care and psycho-educational groups called TAMAR (Trauma, Addiction, Mental Health, and Recovery).
- English and Spanish PREA signage was observed.

CDF Chaplain Services

- The chapel is now open to all residents and volunteers who have been approved by the administration regardless of vaccination status.

CDF Recommendations

- Develop more programs for the CDF.

Corrections Treatment Facility (CTF)

C4B Lead Up Unit

Population: 6

Capacity: 32

- This unit is designed for residents ages 18-22 with a pre-existing Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Residents are working towards their high school diploma.
- The school offers all core classes and electives, which include art, music, and health.
- Every Tuesday and Thursday residents meet as a group with two social workers.
- There was no program manager for this unit.
- Charter schools currently provide the DOC educational curriculum as opposed to DC Public Schools.

D1B Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)**Population: 7****Capacity: 33**

- Currently there is no program manager for this unit.
- Dr. Jordan is currently the director of the RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment) unit, which was previously categorized as general programming but is currently overseen by the medical department.
- The curriculum for this program was previously accredited by the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). The current curriculum does not have DBH accreditation.
- All residents have a specific treatment plan.
- It takes 120 days to complete the program.
- Eligibility for this program requires a history of drug abuse or mental health issues.
- Program objectives include diagnosis and treatment plans, establishing goals and objectives, providing education, counseling, treatment, relapse prevention and management, and offering release planning and transitions that support an improved outcome post release.
- Residents are provided a structured program that promotes accountability for self and others, and that identifies physical, social, medical, mental health, community, and spiritual needs.
- Participants are linked to community-based programs upon their return to the community.

D2A Reentry**Population: 14****Capacity: 48**

- Currently, there is no programming in this unit because there is no program manager; however, residents can participate in some programs outside of the unit.
- The unit is comprised of residents with mixed designation statuses; not all are returning to the community.

Young Men Emerging Unit (YME)**Population: 14****Capacity: 25**

- There are twelve mentees and two mentors in the unit.
- Residents are in either GED or Georgetown college classes Monday through Friday.
- Art class occur every Thursday for three hours.
- Residents stated that living conditions in the unit are good.
- Residents reported that it takes 72-hours to get a response from medical after a request slip has been submitted, as opposed to the DOC policy of 48-hours.

E2A Women's Reentry**Population: 10****Capacity: 50**

- There are three ways to get into this program: referral, application, or status as a misdemeanor.
- Some of the women are enrolled in Georgetown classes.
- Some women were displeased that all programming is conducted within the housing unit, and they do not get to attend programs outside of the unit. They want the opportunity to move around and access additional programs.
- Ms. Link is the program manager for this unit.
- There were no translated forms available for the Hispanic population currently in the unit.
- The DOC's Women's Reentry Program is designed to provide gender-responsive interventions, case management, and connections to community partners and services that support a woman's successful reentry to the community.
- DOC administers a gender-responsive needs assessment for women sentenced to sixty days or more and who - upon sentencing - have 45 days left to serve, in addition to those transferring to halfway houses. The gender-responsive assessment is based upon evidence-based data for successful reentry into the community that are specific to both criminal pathways and women issues.
- The average length of stay for women misdemeanants is less than sixty days, so significant activity in the unit focuses on discharge planning.
- The participants of the DOC Women's Reentry Program are mandated to participate in virtual (tablet-based) and in-person programs and services Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.
- The women complained about a flaw in the grievance process. Ideally, a resident should receive a response to an informal grievance before filing a formal grievance. The response to an informal grievance can take up to fifteen days, but a formal grievance *must* be filed within five days of the incident. Therefore, women reported that they must file a formal grievance before the resolution of an informal grievance.

D3A Lead Up Unit**Population: 21****Capacity: 50**

- Residents stated that they had just started the Georgetown Prison Scholars program during the week of CIC's visit, and that – previously, there was no programming other than C-Tec.
- There is no program manager for this unit.
- Residents mentioned that they have not had outside recreation since Thanksgiving 2022.
- Residents had positive remarks about the tablets.

E3A Women's Wellness Unit**Population: 18****Capacity: 50**

- The Women's Wellness Unit is designed to provide evidence-based care to individuals experiencing substance abuse and related disorders.
- Women in this unit reported that there is no programming and nothing to do except watch television.
- Women in the unit reported that staff is disrespectful based upon unprofessional verbal communication.
- Staff attempted to interview three women, but all of them were highly medicated and spoke incomprehensibly.

CTF Recommendations

- Hire more program managers to facilitate existing programs that are not currently operational.
- Adjust the grievance process timeless to correct the existing conflict and reflect a more orderly process.
- Review the medical response times for sick call requests to assure alignment with DOC policy.
- Provide consistent opportunities for outside recreation, especially within unit D3A.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**



April 19, 2023

Reverend Donald L. Isaac
Executive Director
Corrections Information Council
1400 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Director Isaac:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the January 20, 2023 Corrections Information Council (CIC) reinspection and the March 10, 2023 CIC follow up report. On January 20, 2023, CIC re-inspected the Central Detention Facility (CDF) and Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). DOC appreciates our ongoing partnership with CIC whereby we look both seek improved circumstance and outcomes for District of Columbia inmates returning to the community.

DOC continues to encourage CIC to begin to use measurable standards or a standardized instrument to audit DOC facilities which will allow DOC to understand CIC standards and further know what to expect from CIC as an inspecting body. We continue to encourage CIC to draft or implement recognizable standards to ensure that DOC is able to appropriately ensure compliance or respond to inquiries.

I hope that you find this information responsive to your observations. Should you require additional information or further clarification of our submittal, please contact me at (202) 673-7316.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Faust", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Faust
Director

Key Findings for CDF and CTF Grievance Process:

1. *Since the beginning of FY23, there have been 13 grievances against staff from residents regarding improper staff actions. A limited number of signs were translated into Spanish, but they were not made available and distributed equally throughout the facility. Increase language access practices and staff education on how to communicate with non-English proficient and limited English proficient inmates.*
2. *Program managers are needed in the program housing units (CDF).*

DOC Response to Key Findings for CDF and CTF Grievance Process:

1. DOC takes all reported inmate grievance very seriously. DOC reviewed the first thirteen (13) grievances from the start of FY23 classified as “Improper Staff Action.”

20221006-572	20221006-573	20221006-576
20221013-662	20221016-645	20221006-588
20221006-587	20221006-585	20221006-583
20221006-581	20221006580	20221006-579
	20221017-703	

All of these grievances were investigated by Operations, and responses were sent to those inmates that were in DOC Custody. Out of the 13 grievances selected, two of the grievances were closed due to the inmate being released before an investigation could be completed within the 15 business days timeframe as outlined by policy.

The other types of “Improper Staff Action” occurrences were as follows:

Negligence in the Performance of Duties: 8	Verbal: 3
Inattentiveness: 1	Physical Assault: 1

- Physical Assault: There was one Improper Staff Action that alleged a Physical Assault occurred by a staff member. The resolution to this grievance was the resident’s remedy was granted, and the resident was found not guilty by the Adjustment Board. An investigation was continued with the Office of Investigative Services regarding the alleged actions of the staff member.
- Inattentiveness: The resolution for the Improper Staff Action/Inattentiveness was that the resident’s remedy was granted.
- Negligence and Verbal: The resolutions for the Improper Staff Actions alleging negligence and verbal were determined to be unfounded.

English and Spanish equivalent posters for PREA, COVID-19, grievances, and agency wide notifications have been placed throughout the facilities and on all housing units and the Intake/Admissions area. Grievance forms are also available in English and Spanish on all housing units, and on the tablets.

2. Currently, there is one program housing unit at CDF. Ms. Sheri Cox along with team lead Ms. Tarketa Williams are responsible for the LEAD Up GED Unit. DOC is currently in the process of hiring more program managers.

Key Findings in Southeast 1/GED Unit:

1. *The CIC spoke with Unit Manager Sheri Clark who stated that other programs were occurring within this unit in addition to the GED program. CIC did not see other programs during the visit.*
2. *The CIC did not see any PREA signage within the unit. Update LA signage's and make them available in Spanish and distributed equally in all areas.*

DOC Response to Key Findings in Southeast 1/GED Unit:

1. CDF Southeast 1 (SE 1) currently has the following courses being offered: GED English and Spanish, Ashland University credit bearing courses, APDS tablet courses including industry certifications (National Corrections Works, Skillsoft and Money Essentials). Additionally, SE 1 residents also participate in Free Minds Book Club sessions in English and Spanish, Georgetown Street Law classes and the Frederick Douglas Project.¹ See Attachment 1 - February 2023 Education schedule and Attachment 2 – March 2023 Education schedule.
2. Federal law requires assurance that PREA signage be conspicuous in all DCDOC facilities. This has been addressed with staff and signage has been properly placed in the unit.

Key Findings in D2A (Reentry):

1. *Residents reported that it takes 72 – hours to get a response from medical after a request slip has been submitted, as opposed to the DOC policy of 48 – hours.*

DOC Response to D2A (Reentry):

1. DOC changed its sick call process 2 years ago in order to exceed the standards of NCCHC and ACA accreditations. Those standards indicate a 48-hour response time between the time of submission and the time of visit. DOC currently provides sick call visits within 24-hours from the time of submission. This process is frequently audited and documentation can be provided if requested.

¹ The Frederick Douglas Project just recently transferred from SE 1 to another housing unit, but the program will be returning to SE 1 after the completion of the rollout on the other housing unit.

Findings in E2A Women's Reentry:

1. *There were no translated forms available for the Hispanic population currently in the unit.*
2. *Staff attempted to interview three women, but all of them were highly medicated and spoke incomprehensibly.*
3. *Some women were displeased that all programming is conducted within the housing unit, and they do not get to attend programs outside of the unit. They want the opportunity to move around and access additional programs.*
4. *The women complained about a flaw in the grievance process. Ideally, a resident should receive a response to an informal grievance before filing a formal grievance. The response to an informal grievance can take up to fifteen days, but a formal grievance must be filed within 5 days of the incident. Therefore, women reported that they must file a formal grievance before the resolution of an informal grievance.*

DOC Response to E2A Women's Reentry:

1. DOC's women's program manager is reviewing all forms posted and is working with the communications team to get all forms translated and made accessible to residents.
2. During CICs visit, it is possible that the residents the team attempted to interview were on psychotropic medications, which help stabilize their mental health conditions. The medical team will not be able to accurately identify the medications being taken by the women, unless the CIC provided the residents' identity.
3. E2A residents have the following courses available off the unit Monday through Friday: GED, CTECH, Georgetown Prison Scholars Program, and Petey Green College Bridge Writing hybrid classes. Classes are held between 9:00am-4:00pm.

E2A residents participate in Free Minds Book Club and the Fredrick Douglas Project on their housing unit. These two program sessions are held on the unit because historically the partnership have preferred to meet with the residents on the housing unit. Please see attached academic schedule.

The Petey Green Program College Bridge Math Program and Harvard Act Like a Lady courses are currently being held on the E2A housing unit due to a scheduling conflict. The instructors are only available during midafternoon hours, which is when male classes are held in the education area. Due to PREA compliance, female and male general education classes cannot be held at the same time in the same location. The only exception is the Georgetown Prison Scholars Program which has designated staff (one for PREA compliance) to monitor at all times. More off unit programming will be exploring as DOC COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted and volunteers are starting to come back into the facility.

4. The trigger incident referred to on the Step 2 IGP form is identified as either one of the two events listed below from the policy. Residents are not required to file a formal grievance within 5 days of the incident, rather a formal grievance must be filed within 5 days of

receipt of the informal resolution response or within 15 business days of the filing of the informal resolution complaint if a response has not been received.

DOC Policy 4030.1L – Inmate Grievance Procedures, Section 20 identifies the following as the criteria for filing a formal grievance:

20. CRITERIA FOR FILING A FORMAL GRIEVANCE (FG) a. An inmate may file an FG when:

- 1) The inmate is not satisfied with the response of the Informal Resolution Complaint (INF), in which case the inmate shall file the FG within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the INF response, or
 - 2) The inmate has not received a response within 15 business days of filing the INF.
- b. Each grievance must pertain to one specific incident, charge or complaint.
c. Inmates shall not submit redundant or duplicate copies of the same grievance

Findings for E3A Women’s Wellness Unit:

1. *Women in this unit reported that there is no programming and nothing to do except watch television.*
2. *Women in the unit reported that staff is disrespectful based upon unprofessional verbal communication.*

DOC Response to E3A Women’s Wellness Unit:

1. There is robust voluntary programming on the Women’s Wellness Unit. Residents who choose not to participate are free to watch television, read and partake in other programs as eligible on and off the unit. *See attachment 3 – Women’s Wellness Unit Schedule.*
2. When an inmate makes a complaint against staff, the complaint is investigated. If a complaint is found meritorious action is taken against the staff member.

CDF and CTF Recommendations:

1. *Provide consistent opportunities for outside recreation, especially within unit D3A (CTF).*

DOC Response to CDF and CTF Recommendations:

1. CTF is a programming facility. The outdoor recreation has to be done when it does not interfere with the inmate programming. Inmates are not taken outside during inclement weather, before the sunrise or when it’s under 40 degrees. They still get off unit recreation in the gym. Off unit recreation has a schedule and is conducted Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM – 2:00 PM.