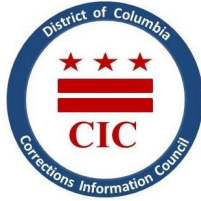


**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**



**District of Columbia
Central Detention Facility**

Report on Findings and Recommendations



May 5, 2022



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

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

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: March 24, 2022

Location: SE, Washington, DC

Security Level: Minimum, Medium, Maximum

Rated Capacity: 2,160

Population on 2/26/2022: 972

Introduction

The Central Detention Facility is comprised of 18 housing units. The CIC visited five of the eighteen housing units. The CIC also visited the infirmary and the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) where residents are processed once they arrive at the facility.

During the previous inspection of CDF, the CIC made several recommendations and of those recommendations two were implemented. The two recommendations were to address the connectivity issues for the tablets and provide inmate grievance forms within restrictive housing in English and Spanish.

The CIC provided the DOC with a draft version of this report for review of factual information and an opportunity to respond prior to publication. The DOC did not require any substantive amendments to this report.

Key Findings

The CIC highlights the following:

Programming

- Residents must be vaccinated to participate in programs outside of the housing units.
- No more than ten residents are allowed at the chapel for any program or religious service.
- Residents are able to utilize American Prisoner Data System (APDS) tablets while in Restrictive Housing and some can use the Global Tel Link (GTL) tablets while in Restrictive Housing depending upon whether or not their privileges are intact.
- APDS tablets are for educational purposes only and GTL tablets are for communication and entertainment purposes.

South 1 (Restrictive Housing)

Population: 36

Unit Capacity: 76

- There are five GTL tablets and twelve APDS tablets in this unit. During the CIC's last inspection, there were no tablets.
- The visiting screen was broken and had been for several weeks. Residents who were allowed visitation privileges could not participate.
- Inmate Grievance Forms (IGP) were present in this unit. During CIC's last inspection, there were no IGPs.
- Residents stated that staff were unresponsive to grievances.
- The TV is broken.
- Some residents reported that staff exceeds the time they are required to stay in restrictive housing.
- One of the shower areas appeared to have dried up feces on the wall.
- Residents reported that - prior to the CIC visit - they had not received cleaning supplies in over a week.

North 1 (Restrictive Housing)

Population: 63

Unit Capacity: 140

- There were IGPs present. During the CIC previous inspection, there were no IGPs present.
- Some residents reported that there was no ventilation in their cells.
- There is no access to tablets or phones in this unit.
- Residents indicated that their time in restrictive housing exceeded the time required by the Adjustment Board.
- A lot of residents in this unit miss their one hour of recreation because staff walk the tier at 5:00 AM in the morning to see who wants recreation, but most residents are sleep so staff just continue walking.

Southeast 1(Lead Up/Lead Out)

Population: 41

Unit Capacity: 45

- This unit is a specialized program unit.
- 9AM – 3PM is reserved for class time in this unit.
- There were English and Spanish pamphlets in the unit advertising different vocational training opportunities and religious services.
- There is a CDL and CTECH program in this unit where residents can get hands on training.
- The majority of residents said the program unit is good, and residents receive tools necessary to be successful.
- Residents reported no ventilation in the unit.
- Residents mentioned that they are not getting responses to their grievances.

- Residents mentioned that the food lacks variety. All dinner meals are cold cut sandwiches or peanut butter every day.

Southwest 3 (General Population)

Population: 93

Unit Capacity: 160

- Residents mentioned not having outside recreation in months.
- Residents stated that there is no ventilation in the cells.
- Residents stated that they are fed cold cut sandwiches daily for dinner.
- There are five visitation screens in this unit, but only two are operable.
- Some residents stated that there is no hot water in the cells and sometimes showers.
- One resident mentioned not having lights in his cell for three weeks.
- One resident mentioned that his toilet was broke for four days and had feces in it.
- Some residents mentioned mold in certain cells, but the CIC was unable to confirm due to fresh paint on those areas.

Northwest 1 (General Population)

Population: 85

Unit Capacity: 160

- The unit was recently under renovation due to maintenance issues. Residents moved back to this unit because they had previously been moved to another unit.
- Most residents complained about not having tablets, because the tablets remained in the previous housing unit.
- Four phones in this unit are broken.
- One of the showers was broken.
- Two visiting screens in this unit are broken.
- The fans are still caked with dust, there is no ventilation in the unit, and the unit is hot.
- Residents stated that dinner consists of cold cut sandwiches daily.
- Residents reported that outside recreation rarely occurs, and they would like fresh air.
- Residents mentioned that the TV room needs its own fan, and the TV only has four channels.

Medical Services:

- Unity Health Care provides medical services.
- Staff and residents reported that medical services are overall good.
- There are three safe cells.
- Mental health clinicians and Urgent Care are available 24/7. There are seven mental health offices.
- According to the medical director, residents are seen within 24 hours of submitting a sick call request, as opposed to the previously reported 48 hours.
- There is also Language Access assistance for those who speak different languages.

- There are no positive COVID cases.

Inmate Reception Center (IRC):

- During intake, a COVID test is administered immediately to the residents.
- Residents must take a STD test, and women must take a pregnancy test.
- Unity Health performs all testing and screenings.
- According to staff, there are always two psychiatrists at intake, medical doctors, and nurses. Language Access is available for any non or limited English proficient person.

Recommendations

Based on the inspection of the CDF, the CIC makes the following recommendations:

- The DOC should perform maintenance on all inoperable visiting screens in restrictive housing and general population units.
- Residents should receive maintenance in a timely fashion when there are issues with toilets, lights, and sinks in their cells.
- Repair the ventilation and air conditioning systems throughout the facility.
- Develop a system for issuing the GTL tablets so that everyone in each housing unit can use them.
- Develop and utilize a consistent outside recreation schedule.
- Provide hot meals for dinner.
- Repair the phones in units where they are not working.
- Restrictive Housing Units should receive cleaning supplies daily.