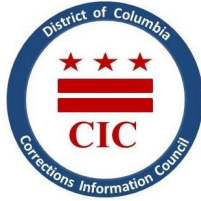


**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**



**District of Columbia
Correctional Treatment Facility**

Report on Findings and Recommendations



Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF)

May 5, 2022



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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Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: March 17, 2022

Location: SE, Washington, DC

Security Level: Minimum, Medium

Rated Capacity: 1,400

Population on 03/17/22: 322

Introduction

The Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) is still on a modified stay in place. Of CTF's 322 residents, 48 are women (~15% of the population). CTF has a total of 19 active units, which includes four female units. All CTF residents are housed alone in a cell. The top languages spoken by residents at CTF are English and Spanish.

At both CTF and CDF, there have been 772 recovered COVID cases and 1 death. As of the CIC's visit, the last date of COVID vaccinations was March 11, 2022. 1,587 residents have been vaccinated at CTF and CDF. There are no residents in quarantine or isolation for CTF.

The medical department at CTF has dual accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). It is equipped to address issues related to dialysis, Infectious Diseases, OB/GYN care, Orthopedics, Physical Therapy, Rheumatology, Pulmonology, Podiatry, and Opioid Treatment. The Opioid Treatment Program is approved by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and NCCHC. This program provides medically assisted treatments, such as Methadone, Suboxone, and Vivitrol. The mental health department consists of one psychiatrist, four psychiatric nurse practitioners, and seven mental health clinicians. The dental department consists of two full-time dentists and one part-time dentist.

CIC staff also spoke with two representatives from the Ready Center, which serves the returning citizens population by providing resources to assist with their transition to the community.

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

Accessibility

- The CIC met with a resident who only spoke Spanish. When asked about Language Access accommodations, other residents stated that two translators are on-site sporadically, usually when “something big happens”, but there is no one regularly on the unit that speaks Spanish. For daily communication, the resident relies on dialing a phone number for an interpreter to communicate with staff. The resident stated that she is having issues with her leg, but has struggled to fully communicate with medical staff.

Programming

- Many of the signs in the facility were outdated, which included information about June 2020 mask mandates, old schedules for tablet offerings, and programming for the previous month instead of current offerings.
- CTF has a Young Men’s Emerging (YME) Unit that targets young men between the ages of 18 and 25. The current population of this unit is 13 with a maximum capacity of 50. There are three mentors in this unit. None of the mentees in this unit had earned their GED, and none were participating in a GED program. Staff reported that GED classes start Monday, March 21, 2022.
- In the unit for residents aged 50 and up, multiple residents expressed disappointment with the programming options. A resident described how he spoke to lieutenants frequently to request more programs and equipment in the unit, because he stated that the grievance process does not help. Another resident expressed that he had completed an educational program on a tablet months ago but has not been contacted by Educational Services to receive their certification.
- Residents stated that they would like more access to legal resources, legal information, and legal professionals. Residents can access the law library using a tablet, but some residents stated that they do not know how to access or interpret legal texts.
- Residents reported that recreation is “inconsistent” and “never guaranteed”. Residents suggested adding more exercise equipment in units to supplement the lack of consistent recreation time.
- The Women’s Wellness unit had exercise equipment, rooms for mental health, and multiple program options.
- In the general women’s unit, residents spoke about multiple program opportunities that they were enjoying, including a vision board class taught by another inmate. Child and Family Life Services (CFLS), Free Minds, and Corey Knight from Hope Foundation come to the unit for programs and seminars. Mr. Knight comes to the unit twice per week to hold an empowerment group activity, which the ladies enjoy. Also, Lorton Art Therapy comes to the unit every Thursday for an art workshop.
- In the men’s units, the residents spoke about the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP). There is a Town Hall at 8 AM daily. The daily programs are:
 - Monday: Employment held by Voices of a Second Chance.
 - Tuesday: Decision Making guided by Mr. Green.
 - Wednesday: Values and Principles guided by Ms. Mama Mia from the Lorton Art Group and Corey Knight (Hope Foundation).
 - Thursday: Anger Management guided by Ms. Starzinsky.
 - Friday: Criminal Thinking guided by Mr. Timothy Saunders from the National Correction Works.

- CTF also offers Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) classes, which are designed to change thought patterns and encourage residents to think positively. There are classes on agriculture, general industry, automotive industry, cosmetology, culinary arts, healthcare, manufacturing, veterinary care, and construction.

Food

- Food at CTF and CDF is currently managed by Aramark.
- Residents mentioned that all dinner meals are cold cut or peanut butter sandwiches instead of a hot meal. To accommodate for the lack of vegetables, residents suggested being provided with vitamins.
- For residents in need of dietary accommodations (Halal, Kosher, etc.), there was frequent mention of incorrectly prepared meals and meals comprised of the same food as regular meals with no accommodations for dietary restrictions. One resident reportedly requested a Common Fare tray but did not receive a response.
- Residents expressed satisfaction for the microwaves in each unit to reheat food if needed.

Medical

- In the CTF unit for older residents (aged 50 and over), some residents are not receiving their medications on time and have been unable to see the dentist.
- Residents stated that the facility is housing unvaccinated residents with vaccinated residents. CTF has 322 residents in a facility with a capacity of 1,400.
- Multiple women stated that OB/GYN services were difficult to obtain and reportedly were told to wait up to a year for a mammogram.
- Residents concluded that medical services are good overall if you do not have any major chronic conditions. For those in need of more serious or long-term care, they were disappointed with the speed and attentiveness of CTF medical services.
- The CIC was invited to the office of Medical Director Dr. Beth Jordan to examine the medical complaints of residents. She immediately established follow-up dates to assure that each medical grievance was addressed.

Visitation

- Families need to show proof of vaccination to visit the facility in-person, but residents juxtaposed their daily interactions with other residents and DOC staff who are not vaccinated.
- The tablets have phone and text capabilities to facilitate alternative means of communicating with family, but residents mentioned that those features do not always work.

Re-Entry

- The Ready Center personnel explained that it is now solely operating remotely, and it no longer has its previously occupied space. This is reportedly placing a strain on operating procedures, as well as the ability to effectively maximize aid to returning citizens.
- There are currently three staff members for the Ready Center: a program analyst/outreach coordinator, a program analyst/peer specialist, and a case worker.

Recommendations

- CTF should increase Language Access practices and staff education on how to communicate with non-English proficient and limited English proficient residents.
- CTF should display accurate and current signage and programming schedules in each unit.
- CTF should increase programming and re-entry options offered to residents aged 50 and up.
- CTF should develop consistent recreation schedules for inmates. If COVID presents scheduling obstacles, then residents should have increased access to exercise equipment.
- CTF medical staff should increase attention towards residents with chronic or serious health conditions by communicating more frequently with them and consulting residents' external doctors when beneficial.
- CTF should eliminate any practice of housing of unvaccinated residents with vaccinated residents, especially considering the low population as compared to the facility capacity.
- CTF should assure that staff checks the requirements and accuracy of dietary specific trays (Halal, Kosher, etc...).
- CTF should provide different meals for lunch and dinner, with dinner being a hot meal. CTF should also increase the amount of vegetables offered to residents to, at minimum, one serving with lunch and one with dinner.
- The DOC should provide a physical space for the Ready Center to conduct in person counseling services. The Ready Center should increase staff, and create an updated comprehensive plan explaining current services and required partnerships with DC government organizations.