

District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council



District of Columbia
Department of Corrections
Annual Report 2023



October 20, 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.

DC Corrections Information Council

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Executive Summary

Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: January 20, 2023;
April 13, 2023

Location: SE, Washington, DC

Security Level: Minimum, Medium

Rated Capacity: 1,400

Population on 1/20/2023: 350

Population on 4/13/2023: 377

Central Detention Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: January 20, 2023;
April 13, 2023

Location: SE, Washington, DC

Security Level: Minimum, Medium,
Maximum

Rated Capacity: 2,164

Population on 1/20/2023: 922

Population on 4/13/2023: 914

Central Cell Block

Date of Inspection: April 12, 2023

Location: 300 Indiana Ave, NW

Average Stay: 24 hours

Rated Capacity: 110

Population on 4/12/2023: 41 (12 were women)

Key Findings

The CIC highlights the following programs and facility practices:

Correctional Treatment Facility

- All restrictions implemented during the COVID-19 Medical Stay in Place have been lifted, and normal operations have resumed.
- Correctional officers who have completed the requisite 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 is now open to everyone in the facility, including outside volunteers, regardless of vaccination status.
- 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, but there is a renewal contract in place.
- Every resident in DOC custody has access to a GTL and American Prison Data System (APDS) tablet, including those in restrictive housing.

Central Detention Facility

- 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 on administrative segregation, and five days of recreation per week for those on disciplinary segregation.

Central Cell Block

- Currently, CCB provides mattresses to women who are pregnant, as well as residents who are arrested on Saturday afternoon and will remain in CCB custody until Monday.
- The sump pump at CCB is currently fixed, and there are no longer any issues with backed up sewage.
- All handicapped cells at CCB are currently operable.
- There are three inoperable cells currently at CCB.
- All arrestees recommenced in-person court appearances.

Recommendations

Facility	Recommendation	Status
CCB	The CIC recommends that CCB acquire a bilingual (Spanish-speaking) correctional officer for each shift	Partially Resolved
CCB	The CIC recommends that DOC hire a mental health professional that can work on site at CCB to administer medications as needed	Partially Resolved
CCB	Fill current staffing vacancies	Partially Resolved
CTF/ CDF	Develop more programs for CDF	Partially Resolved
CTF/ CDF	Hire more program managers to facilitate existing programs that are not currently operational	Partially Resolved
CTF/ CDF	Adjust grievance process timelines to correct the existing conflict and reflect a more orderly process	Partially Resolved
CTF/ CDF	Review the medical response times for sick call requests to assure alignment with DOC policy	Partially Resolved
CTF/ CDF	Provide consistent opportunities for outside recreation, especially within unit D3A	Partially Resolved
CTF	Increase case management staff in unit E4A	Not Resolved
CTF	Renovate showers, which smell of mold and mildew	Not Resolved
CTF	Repurpose unused space on the top floor of units as classrooms or programming areas	Not Resolved
CTF	Increase program offerings in multiple languages on educational tablets	Partially Resolved
CTF	Coordinate with Language Access agencies to provide non-English proficient and limited English proficient accommodations for programs	Partially Resolved
CTF	Provide APDS tablet orientation and re-orientation (scheduled or upon request) to ensure that residents understand how to utilize their tablets	Partially Resolved

CTF	Replace damaged and broken furniture and equipment on Medical 82	Not Resolved
CTF	Increase mental health staff to ensure that residents have access to regularly scheduled mental health appointments	Partially Resolved
CTF	Implement a tracking system to ensure that sick call slips are collected twice daily and that residents are provided care within 24 hours of their request	Partially Resolved
CTF	Post PREA signage and reporting options in visible, common areas in both Spanish and English	Partially Resolved
CTF	Train staff about the grievance process so they may properly execute it with residents	Partially Resolved
CTF	Ensure that grievance forms and instructions on filing are visibly located near the Grievance Submittal box ¹	Not Resolved
CTF	Provide a receipt confirming submission of grievance forms submitted via tablet	Partially Resolved

INTRODUCTION

The DC Department of Corrections (hereinafter, DOC) operates two jail facilities: the Correctional Treatment Facility (hereinafter, CTF), and the Central Detention Facility also known as the DC Jail (hereinafter, CDF). The facilities are adjacent to one another and located in Southeast Washington, D.C. The DOC also operates the Central Cell Block (hereinafter, CCB), which is located at 300 Indiana Avenue Northwest Washington, D.C.

The CTF is a specialized medium security facility that houses all female and some male residents. The CTF also houses residents who have medical issues. Male residents housed at CTF are medium to low custody and are in specialized housing units or receiving medical treatment.

The CDF houses the majority of male residents. Most of the residents are held pending adjudication of a criminal case or are sentenced to a period of incarceration following conviction for a misdemeanor offense. Other CDF residents include those held on United States Parole Commission (USPC) warrants, those awaiting transfer to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and those held due to a writ or hold, typically awaiting transfer to another jurisdiction.

The CCB houses male and female residents who have been arrested and are waiting to see a judge for an initial appearance to determine whether they will be released from the CCB or sent to the CDF to await further proceedings with their criminal case.

The CIC conducted seven on-site inspections of DOC facilities. On January 20, 2023, the CIC conducted an inspection of CTF and CDF²; on April 12, 2023, the CIC conducted an inspection of CCB³; and on April 13, 2023, the CIC conducted an inspection of CTF and CDF. On June 7, 2023, the CIC visited the DOC due to an incident between staff and residents that took place in housing

¹See CTF report on women:

https://cic.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cic/page_content/attachments/CTF%20Women%20Report%20with%20DOC%20comments.pdf

²See CTF and CDF report: <https://cic.dc.gov/node/1658186>.

³See CCB report: <https://cic.dc.gov/node/1676956>.

Unit NW 2; and on July 20, 2023, the CIC visited CDF due to complaints from residents and Council about cells being too hot.⁴

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 20, 2023, CTF INSPECTION

CB4 Lead Up Unit

This unit is designed for male residents ages 18-22 with a pre-existing Individual Education Plan (IEP). Residents here are working towards their high school diploma. There are core classes and electives here that include art, music, and health. There was no program manager for this unit during the time of this inspection.

D1B Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)

During the inspection, there was no program manager for this housing unit. Dr. Jordan is currently the director of the RSAT 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. Eligibility for this program requires a history of drug abuse or mental health issues. It takes 120 days to complete this program.

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.

D2A/Re-Entry

During the time of inspection, there was no programming in this unit because there was no program manager. However, residents were able to participate in some programming outside of the housing unit. Residents in this unit were of mixed designation statuses; meaning, not all are returning to the community.

Young Men Emerging Unit (YME)

There are twelve mentees and two mentors in this unit. Residents are either in GED or Georgetown college classes Monday through Friday. This unit is designed for residents ages 18-25 to partner with older residents, preferably those who have been incarcerated for a substantial length of time, to provide mentorship and guidance to the younger men.

Residents in the YME unit praised the program and stated that it provides a sense of community, stands out from other housing units, and provides useful mentorship and guidance.

⁴See CDF report on cell temperatures: <https://cic.dc.gov/node/1680921>

E2A/ Women's Reentry

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 women's successful reentry.

The 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's issues.

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.

D3A/Lead Up Unit

There is no program manager for this unit. Residents stated that they had recently started the Georgetown Prison scholars' program during the week of CIC's visit, and that, previously, there was no other programming available to them other than C-TECH. Residents also mentioned that they had no outside recreation since Thanksgiving 2022.

E3A Women's Wellness Unit

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.

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 20, 2023, CDF INSPECTION

Southeast 1/GED Unit

The CIC found that there was no PREA signage throughout the housing unit. CIC staff also spoke with the Unit Manager about other programs within the unit outside of GED and was told that there are other forms of programming taking place within the unit, but none were observed during the inspection. Additionally, there was a town hall meeting in progress during the inspection, thus it was concluded that a follow-up visit was necessary.

Northeast 2/ Men's Wellness Unit

The CIC found that the goal of this unit is to immerse patients with Opioid Use Disorder into an intense 90-day treatment program for addiction. Priority for this unit is given to residents engaged in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and those willing to participate in intensive treatment for their substance abuse. However, treatment is not mandatory.

Residents assigned to this 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.

Chaplain Services

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

SUMMARY OF APRIL 12, 2023, INSPECTION OF CCB

Housing

Men are housed on the first floor, women are housed on the second floor, and transgender residents are housed on the first floor in a cell by themselves. Currently, there are two individuals assigned to a cell. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, residents were housed in cells by themselves.

Cells are cleaned Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM by a DGS representative. The average population during the week is 30-45 people. The average population during the weekend is approximately 60 people.

Intake

Arrestees arrive at CCB from the police precinct. Upon entry, there is a medical screening and a temperature check. After the screening, arrestees are pat searched, then walked through the metal detector. Later arrestees are assigned to a cell and given food at the appropriate time.

If the facility is at capacity when an arrestee arrives, they are sent back to the precinct from which they came.

Maintenance

Previously there were issues with the sump-pump and backed up sewage. The sump-pump has been fixed and currently there is no longer an issue with backed-up sewage.

All handicapped cells are operable. During the previous inspection, 25 cells in total were inoperable, which included two of the three handicapped cells. Currently, there are three inoperable cells for the general population.

Staff

The DOC has three shifts: morning, evening, and midnight. There are eight DOC staff members per shift. There are currently five vacancies at CCB.

Medical

There are two nurses; each nurse works a twelve-hour shift. Women with wheelchairs are not admitted to CCB, because the facility is unable to get them to the second floor where women are housed.

If an arrestee requires mental health medicine, they are sent to an outside hospital. Currently, there is no staff to handle mental health issues.

Food

Food consists of wrapped turkey bologna and cheese sandwiches. Vegan sandwiches, which are tomato and spinach, are also available. The food schedule is 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM. The night shift distributes food as arrestees enter the facility.

Court

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, arrestees attended court virtually. As of June 2022, arrestees reinstated in-person court appearances.

SUMMARY OF APRIL 13, 2023, INSPECTION OF 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 general population due to their injuries or illnesses. During this inspection, the CIC spoke with a resident who suffered a gunshot wound and had a colostomy bag. This resident had missed several appointments, which caused his stitches to go into his stomach because they were not removed. He also had to change and clean his colostomy bag himself and, in some instances, he was forced to use the same bag because he was not given new ones.

In the presence of the CIC, DOC executive staff addressed this medical issue.

Medical 82

Residents expressed that this unit feels like a Restrictive Housing Unit because they are only allowed two hours of recreation a day.

Residents are not allowed access to educational tablets in this unit.

D1A

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

Young Men Emerging (YME)

There are currently three mentors and eleven mentees housed in this unit. The mentees are ages 18-25. Residents are either enrolled in the GED program or taking Georgetown college classes. Skill programs are offered, including construction, hospitality, soft skills, and consumer workforce math.

Every morning residents, in order to foster community, have group discussions premised upon a variety of different subjects. On Saturdays, the young men conduct a community cleanup where they clean up the housing unit.

C4B/Lead Out Unit

All residents in this unit are students who are attempting to earn their High School Diploma or GED. Students who have an IEP work towards a High School Diploma, and the remaining students work towards a GED.

The residents reported that 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 on school.

SUMMARY OF APRIL 13, 2023, INSPECTION OF CDF

Southeast 1/GED Unit

To get onto this unit residents must submit a request. Upon receiving the request, staff will check the individual's disciplinary record, substance abuse record, and the GED unit's capacity. This unit offers Free Minds Book Club, Georgetown Street Law, and the Frederick Douglass Project, in addition to GED classes. Maya Angelou Public Charter school teachers currently facilitate GED courses. English as a second language (ESL) classes are available.

DOC reported new resident certification class offerings for Fall, including an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) class.

Residents of the Hispanic population communicated that it is hard for them to connect with their visitors on the screen during social visits if their visitors are calling from other countries, because of connectivity issues on the visiting screen. There are also eight phones in this unit, but only three were operable.

South 1/Restrictive Housing Unit

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 are allowed to have tablets between the hours of 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM, residents can also participate in religious services via tablet, and group therapy (three at a time) with the mental health clinician.

Northeast 1/Protective Custody Unit

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. 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, and residents who have specialized training (e.g. barber, environmental, culinary, and cosmetology training) can qualify for higher pay. Additionally, residents who are considered indigent can receive supplies every week on Mondays.

Northeast 2/Substance Abuse Unit

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 30-45 days of intensive care and medication.

As part of the treatment, residents participate in acupuncture, art therapy, and meditation/yoga.

There are five visiting screens in this unit, and two are inoperable. There are also seven phones in this 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.

SUMMARY OF MAY 17, 2023, VISIT TO CTF WOMEN

Units visited	Population on May 17, 2023	Population from May 2022 to May 2023
E1A	--	6
E2A	10	59
E2B Reentry	26	72
E3A Wellness Unit	8	94
E3B	--	3
E4A Intake and Contains RH on the upper level	23	186
E4B Isolation unit for COVID.	0	4
Medical 82	4	14

Daily Conditions

- There are four case managers assigned to the women's units. Several women reported that case managers do not respond in a timely manner and rarely visit the unit.
- Several residents reported difficulties with making private legal calls and connecting with external case managers because they are unable to accept collect calls.

Hygiene, Meals, and Commissary

- The showers in all the female units smelled of mold and mildew, and there was peeling paint in several showers.
- Peeling wall paint was visible in unit E2B.
- Twenty-five survey respondents reported that hot meals were not served hot. Thirty-seven respondents stated that fruit is not available daily, and 22 respondents stated that vegetables are not available daily. The women also reported that fruit appears old or frozen.

Education and Programming

- The Education Department has a short-term goal of enhancing female program participation by checking on women who are choosing to not participate in classes.
- CTF has partnerships with various colleges and universities in the DC area, such as the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and Georgetown University.
- Five women are enrolled in the C-TECH certificate program, which offers classes in telecom and fiber optics.

Health Services

- Several residents stated that sick call request slips are not collected twice a day.

Conditions on Medical 82

- On inspection day, a space air conditioner was operating in the hallway.
- Residents reported that staff are slow to respond to the call bell and sometimes do not respond at all.
- Female residents on Medical 82 reported privacy concerns about their exposure to male guards while changing clothes and expressed the need for a safe alternative to their suggestion to place paper over the glass door panel to obstruct the view.
- One bed was broken and could only adjust manually.
- Mattress springs on one of the beds was poking through the fabric.

Staff Interactions and Disciplinary Process

- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) signage about reporting sexual misconduct was observed on two units.

Grievances (Administrative Remedy) Process

- Residents must ask staff for grievance forms rather than the forms being freely available in the information area on the unit.⁵ Unit staff was not knowledgeable about the location of grievance forms or the process. No staff ever mentioned placing forms in a sealed envelope.⁶
- Neither staff nor residents were knowledgeable about the Inmate Grievance Advisory Committee⁷ or the name of the Inmate Grievance Coordinator, despite policy which requires weekly visits to the units.⁸
- When filing a grievance form using the tablets, residents are unable to retain a copy.
- On one unit, grievance process information was posted too high on the wall to clearly read.

⁵ DOC Inmate Grievance Policy Procedure (Number 4030.1M) Section 9 d states that “The Inmate Grievance Coordinator (IGP-C) shall insure IGP forms are available on each housing unit. The Housing Unit Officers shall ensure the IGP forms are accessible to inmates at all times.” Page 5.

⁶ DOC Inmate Grievance Policy Procedure (Number 4030.1M) states in Section 2 h that “Grievances are considered legal correspondence. Staff shall not open or inspect a sealed envelope that is labeled “Grievance” and addressed to the Grievance Coordinator, Warden, or any Deputy Director of the DC DOC.” Page 3.

⁷ DOC Inmate Grievance Policy Procedure (Number 4030.1M) Section 16 outlines the composition—including “three (3) to five (5) inmates”-- and responsibilities of the Inmate Grievance Advisory Committee. Pages 10-11.

⁸ DOC Inmate Grievance Policy Procedure (Number 4030.1M) states also states that part of the responsibility of the Inmate Grievance Coordinator is “visiting housing units and inmate activity area(s) at least weekly to encourage information contact with staff and inmates and to informally observe living and working conditions.” (section 9e) Page 5.

SUMMARY OF MAY 31, 2023, INCIDENT AT CDF

On May 31, 2023, there was an incident that occurred at CDF housing unit NW 2 between staff and residents. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) was called to housing unit NW 2 because residents refused to go into their cells after receiving orders from staff. Due to their refusal to comply, staff utilized force.

On June 7, 2023, the CIC visited the DOC to speak with residents who were housed in NW 2 when the incident occurred, and spoke with the Deputy Warden, who was on duty during the incident. The CIC was also able to review reports in relation to the incident, as well as body camera footage and the footage from the cameras in the housing unit.

The CIC received an email from the DOC on June 14, 2023, communicating that the video footage could be picked up the following day. On June 15, 2023, the video footage was obtained and viewed thereafter by CIC staff. Based upon review of the video footage, documentation provided by DOC, and interviews of residents, the CIC concluded that residents did refuse to go into their cells as directed by staff, but also the force that was used by the ERT was excessive.

The conclusions reached by CIC were communicated to the DOC during the quarterly meeting on July 12, 2023.

SUMMARY OF JULY 20, 2023, SITE VISIT AT CDF

The CIC received a request from DC Council to verify concerns about the air temperature at CDF. On July 20, 2023, the CIC conducted a site visit at CDF. The CIC toured housing units, cells, and tested the temperatures in each.

After spot checking several units for temperature and humidity, the CIC found that DOC was compliant with its policy that “during cooling season, the temperature shall be maintained at a level no higher than 84 degrees Fahrenheit.” Also, the humidity averaged approximately 50% inside of those cells. There were some cells that felt cool; however, there were some cells that still felt uncomfortably warm, despite compliance with the baseline temperature.

The CIC recommended that the DOC consider lowering the baseline temperature requirement to lower than 80 degrees. The DOC communicated that they would continue compliance with their existing policy and no changes would be made.

DEATHS IN DOC FY23

There were three deaths in the DOC during FY23. The first death occurred January 25, 2023: the cause is unknown, and the DOC is still awaiting the toxicology report. The second death occurred July 20, 2023: the resident was found unresponsive and Narcan was administered, but he was unable to be revived. The DOC is still awaiting the toxicology report regarding this incident. The third death occurred on August 17, 2023: a resident was stabbed and killed by another resident while awaiting adjudication in his case. Additionally, a fourth death occurred on September 26, 2023, at Washington Hospital Center after a resident experienced a medical emergency at the CDF; the case is currently under investigation by the DOC Office of Investigative Services.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS BETWEEN DOC AND CIC

During fiscal year 2023, the CIC met with the DOC on March 15, 2023, July 12, 2023, and September 19, 2023, which adds to meetings mandated with the DOC at least quarterly.