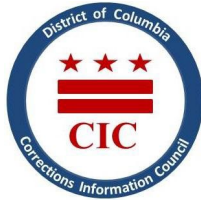


District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council

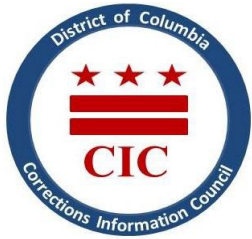


District of Columbia
Department of Corrections (DOC)

Follow-Up Report on Findings and Recommendations



October 21, 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 are kept anonymous and confidential.

DC Corrections Information Council

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Facility Overview

Central Detention Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: July 12, 2022
Location: SE, Washington, DC
Security Level: Minimum, Medium, Maximum

Rated Capacity: 2,160
07/12/22 Population: 1,006

Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

Dates of Inspection: July 12, 2022
Location: SE, Washington, DC
Security Level: Minimum, Medium

Rated Capacity: 1,400
07/12/22 Population: 363

Introduction

The DC Department of Corrections is comprised of the Central Detention Facility (CDF), Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), and Central Cell Block (CCB). On March 17, 2022, the CIC conducted an inspection of CTF; on March 24, 2022, the CIC conducted an inspection of CDF; and on April 5, 2022, the CIC conducted an inspection of CCB. The CIC published three separate reports with recommendations, and the DOC provided written responses. Since those inspections, some CIC recommendations have been implemented, and some are reportedly in the process of implementation. This report focuses on the CIC's inspection on July 12, 2022, which examines the status of March and April findings.

General Findings

The CIC highlights the following:

Ready Center

- During the CIC's previous inspection of DOC, the Ready Center did not have a physical location. Ready Center services were provided virtually. The CIC recommended that the DOC locate a physical space to render services. The Ready Center is now temporarily operating inside of the Reeves Center.
- There is no definitive timeline for a permanent Ready Center location.
- As residents are released from the DOC, while still in Receiving and Discharge (R&D), they are allowed a phone call to contact the Ready Center for an appointment to get services.
- Effective May 2, 2022, the Ready Center is now under the management and purview of DOC's Deputy Director of College and Career Readiness & Professional Development (CCR).

Resident Grievance Procedures throughout DOC

- During the CIC's previous inspection, DOC residents discussed not receiving responses to grievances within the seven-day period indicated by DOC policy.
- The DOC revised its grievance policy. It now has 15 days to respond to grievances, which reportedly required adjustment to facilitate timely responses to sizable grievance loads. Grievances are also now picked up Monday through Friday, as opposed to the previous practice of only Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Updated Signage throughout the DOC

- During the CIC tour of the CDF and CTF, the DOC posted new signage throughout its facilities in both English and Spanish.

Meals at the DOC

- Residents previously stated that dinner meals were always cold meals that consisted of lunchmeat sandwiches. The DOC now provides a cold meal for lunch and a hot meal for dinner.

CDF Findings

South 1

Max Capacity: 80

Current Population: 34

- Previously, the visitation screen and the TV in this housing unit were broken. The DOC repaired both.
- The shower areas were previously found as unsanitary. During this inspection, all shower areas in restrictive housing were clean and sanitary.
- One resident complained of mice inside of his cell. The DOC relocated the resident.
- During this inspection, there were no complaints by restrictive housing residents about access to cleaning supplies for their cells.
- The phone in the TV room of this unit was broken during this inspection. However, residents who have phone privileges may use a GTL tablet, which has phone features available for use while in the TV room during recreation.

Northwest 1

Max Capacity: 160

Current Population: 95

- During the CIC's previous inspection, residents reported that two visiting screens did not work. At the time of this inspection, the same two visiting screens were not working.
- During the CIC's previous inspection, residents complained about the heating and ventilation system. The fans were dirty and caked with dust, and there were not enough fans for proper air circulation. The DOC cleaned the fans, and new fans were added to the unit. The air conditioning system was also blowing cool air properly inside of the housing unit.
- Previously, there was a plumbing issue in the bottom right shower area that caused flooding and blocked drains during showers. Those showers are currently closed for use.
- Several of the chase closets in this unit were leaking and/or flooding. Residents placed T-shirts under the doors to stop the flooding, but they indicated that water was still entering their cells.
- Currently, there are six GTL tablets for this housing unit population of ninety-five people.
- Residents reported participation in outside recreation.

Southwest 3

Max Capacity: 160

Current Population: 90

- Previously, there was a problem with air ventilation in this unit. The DOC fixed the problem, and air is now circulating.

- There are four phones and two visiting screens that are not operable. The DOC's previous response indicated that "they are in the process of being repaired". As of this inspection, they were still not operable.
- Residents previously mentioned that they were not getting outside recreation. They are now receiving outside recreation.

CTF Findings

Young Men Emerging Unit (YME)

Max Capacity: 32

Current Population: 17

- Previously, during the CIC's inspection of the YME unit, the young men stated there were no GED classes. The DOC's response indicated that the young men were enrolled in GED classes. The DOC also said that everyone in the YME program had to be enrolled in some type of educational programming.
- During this follow up inspection, all the young men were reportedly enrolled in GED classes. Young men who already earned their GED are involved in other educational programming.

50 and Over Unit

Max Capacity: 33

Population on the Unit: 29

- During the previous CIC inspection, residents in this housing unit mentioned that they did not have access to any programs, including reentry. The DOC's response said that a town hall meeting took place on April 19, 2022. After the town hall meeting, the program manager volunteered to conduct programming while awaiting the development of a more comprehensive plan on how the fifty and over unit could best receive programming. During this follow up inspection, the CIC confirmed that the town hall meeting did occur, but currently there were still no programs.
- The process for phone cards typically takes two to three days after payment is withdrawn from a resident account. Some residents reported that money was drafted from their accounts, but they waited weeks to receive the phone cards. The DOC contacted inmate finance, but there was no clarity regarding the reason for the wait.
- Residents receive outside recreation.

Central Cell Block Information

The CIC did not physically visit the Central Cell Block (CCB) during this visit. However, the DOC provided the CCB Daily Maintenance/Environmental Tracker, which details the issues and work

orders submitted by the DOC to the Department of General Services (DGS). DGS is responsible for the maintenance of CCB.

