



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
GARY D. MAYNARD, DIRECTOR
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August 1, 2005

Scott County Supervisors
428 Western
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Re: Scott County Jail Inspection

Dear Chairperson

The Scott County Jail was inspected by the Iowa Department of Corrections on July 28, 2005, as required by Iowa Code Section 356, to ensure compliance with Chapter 201-50 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The inspection included an examination of staff training documents, prisoner files, jail policy and procedures and a tour of the jail. Please note the following Iowa Administrative Code Sections, comments and recommendations for corrective actions:

IAC 201-50.2(356,356A) General provisions.

50.2(2) Capacity. Established capacities as determined by these rules shall not be exceeded except in the event of an emergency, and then only for such a period of time as is necessary to arrange for alternate housing or release of sufficient inmates to bring the number of persons confined into compliance with the rated capacity.

Comment: At the time of this inspection, the jail is within its rated capacity due to the housing of ninety-seven prisoners in other jails and 10 prisoners in programs, including electronic monitoring, which have been initiated to reduce overcapacity conditions. The jail administration is to be commended for their continued efforts in establishing programs that are intended to reduce the recidivism levels and to manage the jail population.

IAC 201-50.5(356,356A) Physical plant—general.

50.5(3) Heating and ventilation. All detention and living areas shall be reasonably heated and ventilated, with airflow sufficient to admit fresh air and remove disagreeable odors, to ensure healthful and comfortable living and working conditions for prisoners and staff. Fans and an adequate supply of cold liquids will be made available and utilized when indoor temperatures exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

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Comment: Previous inspections have noted a lack of sufficient airflow in some cell areas. During this inspection, airflow was not adequate in cells 3B and 4B.

Recommendation: Please continue to monitor the temperature, ventilation and airflow to ensure healthful and comfortable living and working conditions for prisoners and staff.

IAC 201-50.5(356,356A) Physical plant-general.

50.5(5) Lighting. Lighting shall be a minimum of 20 candlepower at the table top for the purposes of reading and writing. Living areas shall be devoid of dark areas. Hallways, entrances and exits shall be sufficiently lit to observe a person entering or exiting. Light controls shall be out of the control of prisoners. Housing areas may be variably illuminated to allow sleep, but continuous observation of prisoners must be possible. All exits shall be equipped with independent emergency lighting sources.

Comment: Lighting in Cells 2A, 2B, 2D, 2K, 2M, 2N, 3A, 3C, 3H, 3N, 4A and 4B does not meet the requirement of 20 candlepower at tabletop height. Lighting deficiencies were noted during previous inspections and lighting has been increased in some of the cell areas. However, corrective measures have not been completed in the above cell areas.

IAC 201-50.9(356,356A) Fire safety and emergency evacuation.

50.9(2) Fire marshal's certificate. No jail shall be occupied by a prisoner unless the state fire marshal or qualified local fire prevention authority has issued a fire certificate within the last 18 calendar months. The state fire marshal or qualified local fire prevention authority shall issue this certificate only if the jail complies with the fire safety standards in these rules and other applicable standards of the state fire marshal.

Comment: The fire marshal's certificate is not current. The previous fire inspection, by the state fire marshal's office, was conducted on September 8, 2003. The jail administrator has contacted the fire marshal and an inspection has been scheduled for August 5, 2005.

IAC 201-50.13(356,356A) Standard operating procedures manual.

50.13(1) Admission and classification.

b. With the exception of incidental contact under staff supervision, the following classes of prisoners shall be kept separate by architectural design barring conversational and visual contact from each other:

(1) Juveniles and adults (pursuant to Iowa Code section 356.3).

(2) Females from males (exception-alternative jail facilities) (pursuant to Iowa Code section 356.4).

c. The following shall be kept separate whenever possible:

- (1) Felons from misdemeanants.**
- (2) Pretrial offenders from sentenced persons.**
- (3) Witnesses from persons charged with crimes.**

d. The following shall be kept physically separated:

- (1) Persons of whom violence is reasonably anticipated.**
- (2) Persons who are a health risk to others.**
- (3) Person of whom sexually deviant behavior is reasonably anticipated.**

Comment: Classification and separation of prisoners as required by IAC 201-50.13(1) is difficult due to the design of the jail. The required separation of prisoners is one of the reasons that prisoners are housed in other jails. A prisoner classification procedure is being used to manage the jail population and determine housing needs for individual prisoners.

Recommendation: Continue to move prisoners requiring separation to a facility that can provide separation if the separation cannot be accomplished at the Scott County Jail.

IAC 201-50.14(356,356A) Cleanliness and hygiene.

50.14(1) Housekeeping.

a. The jail shall be kept clean and sanitary. Toilets, wash basins, showers and other equipment throughout the facility shall be maintained in good working order. Walls, floors and ceilings shall be well maintained.

Comment: The jail is clean. However, shower areas in Cells 2A, 2B, 2C, 2J, 2K, 2L, 2N, 3A, 3B, 3H, 3N, 4A, 4B and 4D are in need of maintenance. These conditions were noted during the previous inspection.

Corrective action: Please provide the needed maintenance to the shower areas prior to the next inspection.

Additional comments:

The jail administration advised that the voters have passed a bond issue for the construction of a new jail and bid letting is scheduled in the near future. A new jail will correct some of the deficiencies noted during this inspection. However, completion of the new jail will take time and the current facilities should be maintained and operated in compliance with the Iowa Administrative Code in order to provide a safe and secure facility for jail staff, prisoners and the citizens of Scott County.

In April of 2005, the Iowa Department of Corrections approved a waiver/variance request that allowed Scott County to add additional beds to the dormitory units at the Jail Annex until construction of the new jail is completed. As of this inspection, the additional beds have not been installed due to a remodeling project at the jail annex. Please contact the Jail Inspection Unit of the Iowa Department of Corrections upon completion of this remodeling.

Improvements since the last inspection include the painting of cell areas at the main jail and the remodeling of shower areas at the jail annex.

The jail policy and procedures manual has been updated since the last inspection and is well-written. However, it is recommended that the policy and procedures manual contain the jails procedures for conducting prisoner disciplinary hearings.

Prisoner rules have been updated since the last inspection and are complete and well-written.

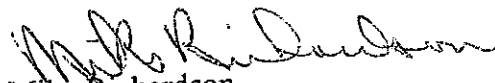
Documentation was available for inspection.

The jail staff is very professional and doing a good job in a facility that was not designed for current needs.

Upon completion of the above corrective actions, the Scott County Jail will be in compliance with Chapter 201-50 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

I wish to thank Sheriff Dennis Conard, Major Cliff Tebbitt, Captain Mike McGregor and the jail staff for their cooperation and assistance during the inspection.

Sincerely,


Mike Richardson
Chief Jail Inspector

cc: Sheriff
County Attorney
File