



STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
BETH A. SKINNER, PhD, DIRECTOR

July 19, 2019

John Muir, Chairman
Greene County Supervisors
114 N. Chestnut Street
Jefferson, Iowa 50129

Re: Greene County Jail Inspection

Dear Chairman Muir,

The Greene County Jail was inspected on July 16, 2019 by the Iowa Department of Corrections, 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 records, required documentation, prisoner files, jail policy and procedures and a tour of the jail. Please note the following Iowa Administrative Code Sections, comments and recommendation for corrective action:

IAC 201—50.18(356,356A) Prisoner activities.

50.18(1) Exercise. Prisoners held beyond seven days and not leaving the jail pursuant to Iowa Code section 356.26 shall be offered exercise time.

c. Exercise areas. An exercise area outside the cell shall be available. Such area must provide opportunity for adequate exercise. Corridors and hallways must remain clear of equipment or material and must provide unimpeded access to exits.

Comment: Exercise is being conducted in the basement of the law center. This requires prisoners to be moved through non-secure areas of the jail, and creates a safety and security concern for public, staff, and prisoners. This security issue has been noted during the previous inspection and remains a concern. This area of weakness was highlighted with an escape from custody in the past.

Recommended action: Greene County should review their policy, procedure, and practice to enhance the safety of the facility, for the prisoners, staff, and the public.

IAC 201—50.19(356,356A) Communication.

50.19(4) General visitation.

a. All prisoners in normal status shall be allowed reasonable visitation.

Comment: Prisoner visitation is a security concern. Prisoners are moved from the secure area of the jail to the office part of the jail. Prisoners potentially have access to areas that could breach the security of the facility. Visitors are moved through the office to get to the visitation booth.

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Recommend action: Greene County should review their policy, procedure, and practice to enhance the safety of the facility, for the prisoners, staff, and the public. A viable solution would be to explore the possibilities of installing video visitation.

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

50.9(11) Mattresses. Only fire-resistant mattresses of a type that will not sustain a flame and certified by an independent testing laboratory and that meet the standards established by the state fire marshal shall be used in jails. Mattresses that are ripped, excessively cracked or which contain large holes shall be replaced. Pillows shall be replaced when torn or excessively cracked.

Comment: Several mattresses are showing signs of excessive wear.

Corrective action: Please repair or replace the mattresses when they show signs of excessive wear and deterioration.

IAC 201—50.5(356,356A) Physical requirements for existing facilities. This rule shall apply to all jails in existence prior to June 30, 1984. In cases where an existing jail undergoes major remodeling after September 12, 2001, rules 201—50.6(356,356A) and 201—50.7(356,356A) shall apply to the area being upgraded.

50.5(1) Each single occupancy cell for prisoners in normal status shall have a minimum floor area of 40 square feet provided that the prisoner is not required to spend more than 16 hours during any 24-hour period in the cell.

50.5(2) Each single occupancy cell must provide 50 square feet of floor space for prisoners held more than 16 hours during any 24-hour period.

50.5(3) Multiple occupancy cells shall provide 40 square feet of floor space for the first prisoner and an additional 20 square feet for each additional prisoner provided that no prisoner is required to spend more than 16 hours in the cell during any 24-hour period.

50.5(4) Prisoners held in multiple occupancy cells for more than 16 hours during any 24-hour period shall have a minimum of 50 square feet of floor space for the first prisoner and 30 additional square feet of floor space for each additional prisoner.

50.5(5) Except in emergency situations, no multiple occupancy cell shall house more prisoners than the rated capacity.

50.5(6) Dormitory units shall have a minimum of 60 square feet of floor space per prisoner.

50.5(7) Each single occupancy cell, multiple occupancy cell and dormitory unit shall provide the following:

- a. A minimum of 7 feet from floor to ceiling height.
- b. A bunk of adequate size for normal-sized adults.
- c. Access to a functional toilet.
- d. Access to a lavatory that furnishes both hot and cold water; mixing valves may be used.
- e. Sufficient tables and seats to accommodate the rated capacity of the unit. The tables and seats may be located in the cells or in an adjacent dayroom.

f. A functionally operating shower which furnishes both hot and cold water; mixing valves may be used. This shower may be either in the housing unit itself or in an adjacent area.

50.5(8) Each dayroom shall have a minimum floor area of 30 square feet. There shall be an additional 15 square feet for each prisoner beyond one.

Comment: At the time of inspection, Greene County Jail had more prisoners than the approved number of beds. Greene County is out of compliance until the overcrowding issue is addressed.

Corrective action: Greene County shall develop a plan of action to address the overcrowding in the jail and shall ensure each prisoner has a bunk when incarcerated.

Additional comments:

Admission and classification as well as sight and sound separation as required by Iowa Jail Standards is nearly impossible due to the structural design of the jail facility.

Greene County Jail is an older facility that is a clean facility. The facility is outdated and staff is doing a tremendous job with a facility that does not meet current needs of the prisoners, staff or public.

Major improvements include the installation of new audio equipment; renovation of the shower and holding cell.

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

I wish to thank Sheriff Jack Williams, Chief Deputy/Jail Administrator Nathaniel Chapman, Assistant Jail Administrator Karen White and the sheriff's office staff for their cooperation and assistance during the inspection.

Sincerely,
Delbert G. Longley
Chief Jail Inspector

cc: Sheriff
County Attorney
File