

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

FILE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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DALLAS

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Clay Jenkins
Dallas County Judge
411 Elm Street
Dallas, TX 75202

and


Sheriff Marian Brown
Dallas County Sheriff
133 N. Riverfront Blvd LB-31
Dallas, TX 75207

Dear Judge Jenkins and Sheriff Brown,

Pursuant to the provisions of V.T.C.A. Government Code, Section 511.011 and Title 37, Texas Administrative Code (Chapter 297, Section 5, Texas Minimum Jail Standards), you are hereby notified that the jail in your county fails to comply with minimum standards established under V.T.C.A. Local Government Code, Chapter 351, and the rules of this Commission, and that appropriate corrective measures must be initiated. A reasonable completion date for corrective measures should be set. Failure to initiate appropriate corrective action may cause a remedial order to be issued and enforced, or other appropriate action taken. **In accordance with Chapter 297, Section 6, Texas Minimum Jail Standards, please notify this agency in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice as to actions initiated.**

The attached page(s) indicate minimum standards violated, corrective measures required, and date by which corrective measures must be initiated. Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on February 14-18, 2022 detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Issued this 23rd day of February 2022
Texas Commission on Jail Standards

By 
Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director

BW/klc

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Dr. Esmail Porsa, M.D., Parker, Vice-Chair
Ross Reyes, Melissa

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock
Sheriff Raul "Pinky" Gonzales, Refugio
Patricia M. Anthony, Garland

Commissioner Ben Perry, Waco
Duane Lock, Southlake
Monica McBride, Alpine

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTOR REQUIREMENTS REVIEW



Michael L. Gravitt, TCJS Inspector



Jason Jouett, TCJS Inspector



Jon Luna, TCJS Inspector

Facility Name: Dallas County Jail

Date:

February 14-18, 2022

Chapter	Title	Comments
259	New Construction	Conducted a walk through inspection of the facility.
261	Existing Construction	Not applicable.
263	Life Safety	Inspected life safety equipment and conducted and observed emergency drill. Reviewed documentation. Conducted staff interviews. Technical assistance provided – During the review of South Tower generator documentation, it was determined a load test was not conducted on Generator #1 and Generator #2 during the months of March and April of 2021. Sheriff's department and maintenance staff were interviewed, no documentation could be produced to verify that the tests were performed, or why they were not. Furthermore, weekly non-load tests were not performed on Generator's #1 and #2 on three separate occasions during the month of March, 2021. Generator log documentation reviewed indicated "No generator test this week per maintenance". All generators functioned normally during inspector initiated testing. Staff were reminded of the importance of conducting weekly and monthly load tests on the generators as required by minimum jail standards. Follow-up required – Staff will scan and email the lead inspector copies of all generator monthly load and weekly non-load tests for the next 90 days. Failure to properly document generator testing will result in an additional notice of non-compliance.
265	Admission	Reviewed a random sample of 50 inmate files. Interviewed staff. Reviewed policy.
267	Release	Reviewed a random sample of 50 inmate files. Interviewed staff.
269	Records/Procedures	Reviewed policy and documentation. Interviewed staff and reviewed ADA compliance evaluation.
271	Classification	Reviewed a random selection of 58 inmate files. Reviewed staff training records. Reviewed internal classification audits. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff. Technical assistance provided – During the review of inmate files, it was discovered that multiple inmates were possibly mis-classified using the point additive classification system. Specifically, it was noted that inmates with various drug charges that should have been classified as "5 HIGH" on the Offense Severity Scale were classified as "2 MODERATE" upon initial classification and "4 HIGH" and "1 MODERATE" on reassessments. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that Dallas County staff were using a modified Offense Severity Scale that counted all drug related charges as "MODERATE" rather than "HIGH". It was also discovered that staff were possibly also using an unmodified Offense Severity Scale, although no files were found to support this. Both the standard and modified Offense Severity Scale were found in the classification book presented at the time of inspection. It was also noted that the modified Offense Severity Scale in use was not submitted to TCJS for review and approval. Modifications to the Offense Severity Scale were requested on October 20, 2016 and approved by TCJS on November 10, 2016, but the requested modifications did not include any of the various drug charges in question. Issue was addressed with administration. Follow-up action required - within the next 30 days, administration will review the Offense Severity Scale and submit all requested modifications to TCJS for review and approval. Upon approval, Dallas County will only utilize the approved Offense Severity Scale.
273	Health Services	Reviewed a random selection of 50 files. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed training records. Reviewed
275	Supervision	Reviewed a random selection of 454 officer TCOLE certification records. Reviewed officer documentation. Interviewed staff. Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provided. - During a review of documented observation logs in the intake holdover housing unit, it was identified that observations of suicidal inmates housed in this area were being incorrectly documented. Verification was obtained when written observation logs were compared to recorded video documentation. Upon further review of other dates' written observation logs and video documentation, the inspection team and jail staff were able to identify other instances where observation logs were incorrectly documented. Follow-up Required - Until further notice, Jail Administration will provide the lead inspector weekly verification that observation logs and video documentation of suicidal inmates held in intake holdover have been compared/verified and are in compliance with TCJS minimum jail standards and Dallas County Jail standard operation protocol.

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277	Personal Hygiene	Conducted a facility walk through. Reviewed facility schedule. <u>Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provided</u> - During the walk through of the West Tower, the inspection team received multiple complaints from inmates regarding not receiving clean uniforms on a weekly basis. Upon further inspection, and after observing one inmate without a complete uniform, it was determined that staff assigned to laundry are not exchanging clothing and washable items such as sheets, towels, and mattress covers for inmates who are considered to be under crisis care. Laundry officers leave clothing and washable items for officers assigned to the floor to complete the required weekly exchange. Staff was unable to provide documentation showing that at least a weekly exchange of clothing and washable items is being conducted with inmates on crisis watch. <u>Follow-up action required</u> - within the next 30 days, administration will develop a plan of action to ensure that inmates considered under crisis watch are provided with at least a documented weekly exchange of clothing and washable items. Administration will scan and email the plan of action to the lead inspector and provide documentation of clothing and washable item exchange for the next 30 to 60 days for the inmates considered to under crisis watch.
279	Sanitation	Conducted a facility walk through. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. <u>Deficiency noted. Technical assistance provided</u> - During the walkthrough of Dallas County Jail's North Tower, approximately 40 housing unit doors were identified to be inoperable. In some instances, the inoperable doors were all within the same housing scheme. Inmates, staff and maintenance personnel were interviewed, and an ongoing issue was determined to exist. During the walkthrough, the inspection team identified to Dallas County Maintenance Staff which doors were malfunctioning. Dallas County Maintenance indicated that affected doors were repaired but had been damaged recently and would not secure. While on-site, inspectors attempted to verify door repairs and witnessed inmates manipulating a cell door with contraband causing the door to become inoperable. <u>Follow-up required</u> - The Dallas County Jail Administration will submit a plan of action to Inspector Gravitt within the next 14 days addressing and correcting this ongoing issue. This plan shall include the stakeholders, jail staff and maintenance personnel working together cohesively, to successfully ensure repairs of security doors as well as preventative maintenance moving forward.
279	Sanitation (cont.)	**** <u>Inspector's Note</u> - During the inspection teams' week at the Dallas County Jail they consistently smelled a burning aroma at the North Tower facility. After speaking with numerous staff members this smell is commonly associated with the drug K2 and the burning/smoking of coffee grounds. Also, according to staff members, this has been an ongoing issue for several months. This issue affects the inmate population as well as the jail staff who have to constantly inhale these fumes. The jail must find ways to address this issue so that this does not become common behavior from those inmates who are not adhering to jail rules and regulations.
281	Food Service	Conducted walk through inspection in kitchen area. Interviewed staff. Reviewed documentation.
283.1	Discipline	Reviewed 50 disciplinary hearing records. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. Reviewed inmate rules.
283.3	Grievance	Reviewed 55 inmate grievance/complaints. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff and inmates.
285	Exercise	Walk through of exercise area conducted. Reviewed documentation. Interviewed staff and inmates. <u>Technical assistance provided</u> - During the walk-through of the of the West Tower, it was determined through staff and inmate interviews, as well as through recreation documentation, that inmates on crisis and suicide watch are being provided recreation in the dayroom at various times of the day. Recreation policy currently allows inmates to walk around the dayroom for 1 hour per day, 3 times per week. <u>Follow-up required</u> - Staff shall ensure that the dayroom or portable television is tuned to the proper channel or otherwise playing the exercise program/video while inmates are provided recreation. Participation shall be documented as accepted or refused, as required by the facility operational plan or local policy. Administration will scan and email the lead inspector documentation of recreation offered to inmates on crisis or suicide status once per week for the next 30 days. Failure to document offered recreation 3 times per week will result in an additional notice of non-compliance being issued.
287	Education/Library	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
289	Work Assignments	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.1	Telephone	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.2	Correspondence	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.3	Commissary	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.4	Visitation	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.5	Religious Practices	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
xxx	Variances	Reviewed facility variances.
xxx	Remedial Orders	Not applicable.

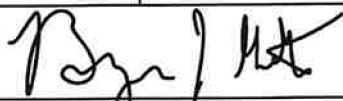
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xxx	Complaints	Not applicable.
xxx	CCQ	CCQ standards are being met by the facility as required by TLETS.


Byron Shelton, TCJS Inspector

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