
Douglas County Correctional Facility 2008 Year End Report

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide safe, secure, humane and legal treatment for all inmates through direct supervision management concepts, while fostering a safe and successful transition through interventions, programs and services from the facility into our community.

June 28, 2008 the Douglas County Sheriff's Office lost a very valuable member of the department. Within the Corrections Division we feel we lost a member of our family. Lieutenant Dave Dillon was tragically killed while riding his bicycle east of Eudora. His loss was a great blow to this division and everyone working within the facility. We have somewhat recovered and continued to accomplish many things.

Facility Outcome Statement

The Douglas County Correctional Facility serves the community of Douglas County by incarcerating pre-trial and sentenced inmates. The facility aids the Courts, law enforcement agencies, inmates and their families by operating a safe and secure correctional facility that ensures defendants appear in court and complete jail sentences. Inmates are incarcerated in a manner which provides for their medical, nutritional, hygienic, legal, and spiritual needs and offers programming services designed to provide opportunities to improve their lives both during and after incarceration to reduce re-offending.

Services and Accomplishments

The Douglas County Correctional Facility contributes to Douglas County tax payers and County Administration by our commitment to ensure basic health and safety for all as the only adult detention center in Douglas County. The facility houses all levels of offenders from minimum classification to maximum security offenders. The facility has the capacity to house up to 186 inmates. The Corrections Division has been aggressively working to provide alternatives to incarceration with the courts and other stakeholders to manage the growing inmate population.

We feel the following are major accomplishments in the current year:

- No inmate suicides
- No inmate escapes
- Providing public safety to the citizens of Douglas County by incarcerating those who have violated the laws of the State of Kansas
- Hiring of the first re-entry director
- Remaining proactive in the maintenance of our facility, including the use of trustee and inmate workers
- Implemented a new jail management system within facility
- Awarded a two year technical grant through National Institute of Corrections and Urban Institute to aid in offender re-entry
- Continued cooperation with mental health provider to create safe living conditions for those incarcerated with mental illness
- Continued cooperation with medical health provider allowing inmates the opportunity and means to live a healthier life upon release
- Continued efforts at recycling as many waste products as possible from within the facility
- Activation of Correctional Division information on Department website
- Retention of valued staff members
- Continued 100% compliance rate of registered offenders
- Implemented practice of releasing offenders with up to 10 days of prescribed medications as long as there is a responsible person (case manager) to dispense the medication. This allows the released offender to remain on medication until continuity of care is established
- Linking of released offenders to community services
- Implementation of Social Security Administration incentive payment program (electronic process)
- Paperless policy distribution practice
- Expanded Job Readiness and Cognitive Behavioral programming
- Partnered in development of facility Parenting curriculum
- Open door policy at facility allowing tours and meetings from outside stakeholders and civic groups
- Implementation of Community Collaboration Council on Re-entry for community stakeholders
- Implementation of in-house supervised visits in collaboration with the FARM Inc
- Testing of GPS electronic monitoring for potential incarceration alternatives
- Implemented electronic Victim Notification System
- Monitor and enforce court-ordered inmate work release program

- Register citizens for Concealed Carry Handgun permits
- Implement new dietary menus
- Expanded in-house training opportunities
- Updated facility mission statement to better capture the full spectrum of inmates' re-entry needs

Information relating to our day-to-day baseline performance

Inmate management is becoming increasingly more challenging. During the past year, our inmate population has reached its capacity from time to time. As a rule, when our population reaches this level, we "farm out" inmates to other facilities which allows us the flexibility to maintain the level of arrestees coming into our facility. This practice of "farming out" reduces the possibility of serious inmate rule violations and inmate-on-inmate or inmate-on-staff assaults.

Additional challenges have included the need to separate inmates due to possible gang affiliations, protecting inmates testifying in court against other inmates, safety issues, and dealing with the mentally ill inmates within our facility.

The facility Classification Unit continues to operate effectively. Decisions on inmate housing unit placement and inmate farm out decisions are handled within this area. Classification staff makes these decisions quickly and effectively. The Victim Notification System operated in an effective manner in conjunction with information provided by the District Attorney's Office.

Statistical reporting within the facility is still in its infancy after implementing the new Jail Management System. Staff continues to adjust to the new system and all of its capabilities. In 2009, we hope to provide a wide array of meaningful statistical information to county administration and other stake holders who are interested. This data will aid in determining trends and developing procedures for identifying and addressing problem areas to ensure operational consistency. This data will aid the facility and staff in managing those inmates with mental health issues, inmates with violent behaviors, and those interested in becoming involved in the offender re-entry program.

Our facility re-entry program has taken great strides since being fully implemented January 28, 2008. With the two year technical grant award, we hope to continue to make great strides in this very important area of inmates entering the community in successful manner.

Basic Statistical Information

- 78% of classified inmates indicated alcohol and/or drug abuse has resulted in social, economic or legal problems (calendar year 2007)
- 6% of inmates were identified as having severe and persistent mental illness (July 14th, 2008)
- 6% of the population was either admitted or pending admission into a state mental hospital (Larned and Osawatomie), another indication of the hospitalization correctional facilities provide to mentally ill inmates (May 2008)
- 40% of our prescriptions are for psychotropic medications, furthering our need for continued mental health links back into the community (July 2008)
- 17% of our inmate population reported being homeless or residing in a shelter (Salvation Army, Lawrence Community Shelter, or WTCS) (January 30th, 2008)
- 92% of our sentenced male population classified as "lower risk" (work release, minimum, or medium classification) (May 2008)
- 62% of our pre-trial male population classified as lower-risk (work release, minimum, or medium classification) (May 2008)
- 14% of the total inmate population are women (July 2008)
- **36% reduction of overtime (2008)**
- 75% of the posted bonds were \$1000.00 or lower, which may indicate most charges could be regarded as lower level offenses (February-April 2008)
- 58% of our population is here pre-trial, not convicted, unable to post bond. Our pre-trial population has increased 5% since 2006 while the sentenced population has decreased. (May 2008)
- 55% of arrestees were age 39 or younger (3rd quarter CY 2008)
- 58% increase in Average Daily Population from 2000 to 2007
- 92% of inmates released directly to the community

Challenges in 2009

- Manage inmate population trends
- Continued efforts in inmate re-entry program
- Continued efforts with courts to implement alternatives to incarceration
- Implement a plan allowing for transition of management positions with pending retirements
- To improve statistical reporting capabilities
- Continue to address inmate classification needs
- Address the impact of any further unfunded mandates implemented by the State of Kansas

- Monitor the impact of State Legislative changes
- Provide quality/professional training to staff keeping in mind budgetary limitations
- Budgetary restrictions

Facility Priorities in 2009

- Improve investigations and documentation of staff injuries while on duty
- Improve staff disciplinary action documentation and reporting
- Continue to train staff in the areas of inmate management related to those with mental illness
- Continue to provide training within the facility to save training dollars and reduce overtime
- Provide professional training on correctional case law to ALL staff. Utilize an attorney who is familiar with correctional case law
- Continue to take a proactive approach to suicide prevention within the facility
- Continued progress with offender re-entry program including measuring effectiveness and success
- Continued progress with Jail Management implementation, consistency in data entry and retrieval
- Continue public education of Correctional Facility
- Involve more staff in policy review process and reentry efforts
- Better communication between administration and staff
- Continued development of two newly assigned Lieutenants within the Corrections Division

The **professional** and **dedicated** staff working within the Corrections Division made all of these positives occur during 2008. Without these **professional** and **dedicated** staff within the facility we would not continue to meet the foundational requirements of our Mission Statement. 2008 overall has been a good year but we can not hang our hats on 2008. We must continue to improve and move forward in 2009 facing all challenges that will present themselves. We are up to these challenges.

Kenneth Massey
Undersheriff of Corrections