

Scott Walker
Governor

Edward F. Wall
Secretary



Office of Detention Facilities
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State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

September 21, 2015

Sheriff Jeffrey Wallace
Rusk County Sheriff's Department
311 Miner Avenue East
Ladysmith, WI 54848

RE: Annual Inspection 2015

Dear Sheriff Wallace:

On Thursday, September 10, 2015, the annual inspection of the Rusk County Jail was conducted pursuant to **Wisconsin Statute 301.37(3)**. The inspection compared your facility and its operation to applicable statutes and Department of Corrections **Administrative Rule Chapter DOC 350 Jails**. The primary focus of the review includes the following areas of operation: **Inmate Classification and Housing, Safety and Security Practices, Health Care, High Risk Supervision, Records and Reporting, and Maintenance of Jail and Care of Prisoners**. The results of my review are detailed in the enclosed inspection document.

Operational Changes Affecting Jail Operations Include:

- The classification system has been improved by color coding the inmate files. This allows staff to easily identify each inmate's classification and ensure proper separation and supervision.
- The booking process has been made more efficient by updating the fingerprint and camera systems.
- Detention furnishings are now in place in the booking area, library, and conference rooms to improve overall security and safety. Additional detention seating has also been added to the housing areas.

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- Recreation and program opportunities have been increased by the addition of AODA programming and the use of Xbox.
 - New evacuation chain sets have been purchased to improve overall security and safety in the event of an evacuation.

Summary of Jail Operations:

The jail is partially compliant with administrative code and statutory requirements. There are some areas in need of improvement as noted in this letter and attached inspection document. As noted above, several improvements to the jail have been made since last inspection.

As noted in previous inspection, the policy manual is in need of updating. This is critical, as your current manual does not reflect the actual jail practice or the required code provisions. I would ask that completing this update be made a priority.

The overall sanitation and maintenance of the jail was good on the day of inspection. The jail climate was also good, as I received no complaints from inmates when touring the housing areas. This is a tribute to your staff holding inmates accountable in a professional manner. As noted in the attached inspection document, there is a need to implement a monthly documented sanitation inspection process as well as install shower curtains. The kitchen is still in need of commercial counter tops and cabinetry to ensure proper sanitation can be maintained in this area. This need was also noted in the annual kitchen inspection from Health and Human Services.

I would recommend installing cameras in the court holding cells and areas where inmates are transported to and from court holding to the jail.

A review of the health care indicates that LPN Nicole Jones continues to do an excellent job as nurse for the jail. To improve suicide resistance in your intake cells, it is recommended that the metal bed frames be replaced with concrete slab beds.

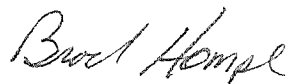
Please see the attached inspection checklist for additional needs and recommendations.

Approval:

The Rusk County Jail is partially code compliant and is approved to hold adult offenders with the maximum rated capacity of **52**. Inmate count on the day of inspection was **48**.

I would like to acknowledge the positive and courteous demeanor of your staff on the day of inspection. I would like to thank Jail Administrator Gloria Brunner for spending time with me to complete this inspection. If you or your staff has any questions relative to this inspection or other jail matters, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brad Hompe
Detention Facilities Specialist

C: Gloria Brunner, Jail Administrator
Kristi Dietz, ODF Director
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