



PREVIOUS INSPECTION _____ Location _____
Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Courts _____ Jails ^X _____ Sheriff Stations _____

COMMISSIONER(S): SHERMAN, Alexander (Accompanied by OIG Catherine Beltz)

TIME: 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM

3/9/2022

FACILITY NAME:	MCJ – 5700, 5550
ADDRESS:	/ LASD SUPERVISOR CONTACTED: Lt (WATCH COMMANDER ON DUTY)
Census:	(Capacity: _____) (Current Census: (_____))
Location(s) Inspected:	5700, 5500
Issues Reported to:	<input type="checkbox"/> BOS <input type="checkbox"/> Officer in Charge <input type="checkbox"/> LASD <input type="checkbox"/> ISD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x OIG <input type="checkbox"/> COC

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

ITEMS	RATING	COMMENTS
1. Conditions of Confinement		
Cells/Toilets/Sinks	U	See Below
Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)		
Crowding	U	See Below
Cleanliness/Graffiti	U	See Below
Safety, Conflict, Tension	U	See Below
Common Areas		
Air Quality/Temperature	U	See Below
Deputy/Detainee Relations (incl. specific incidents or allegations of misconduct)	U	See Below
Strip Search Issues		
Access (Drinking Water)		
Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)		
Access (Toilets (for common room))	U	See Below
Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)	U	See Below
Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)	U	See Below
Access (Legal Counsel)		
Access (Visitation, correspondence)		
Solitary Confinement		
Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)	U	See Below
Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)	U	Inmate concerns about suicidality are being ignored.
Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint procedures, messages to SBC)	U	See Below

Complaint Procedures (e.g., Deputy, medical complaints – confidential procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)	U	See Below
Fees Assessed/Money on Books		
Other: _____		
2. Nutrition Quality/concerns	U	See Below
Access to special diets		

3. Trustees		
Quarters		
Training & Selection		
Workload and Hours		
Calculation/Time Served		
4. Medical Services (Access, wait times, responsiveness, TB and other medical screening, dental, vision; infectious disease protocol)	U	See below
5. Mental Health Services (Access, wait Times, treatment options, assessment procedures)	U	Inmates identifies as having mental illness in 5550 are not seeing psychiatrist frequently enough. Complaints about referrals to see psychiatrist are not being met.
6. Telephones Access/Functionality		
7. EBI Services Availability/Type/Access Volunteer Services (Type, Access, Concerns)	U	5700 has no programming.
8. Clean Clothing and Bedding (Including laundry practices)		
9. Facilities/Maintenance		
Back Log Unfilled Order(s)		
Kitchen/ Laundry		
Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)		
10. Deputy Staffing		
Quality of Interactions w/Detainees	U	Inmates complain of discourtesy from staff.
Use of Force (Last 30 days)		
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)		
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)		
11. Detainee Complaints/Concerns		
12. Deputy Complaints/Concerns		
13. Prior Corrective Action Resolution		
14. Detainee Documentation (e.g., intake/ release, procedures: classification, logs, detainee management files, Exit interview – policies/procedure grievances. generated funds, classifications)		
15. Discipline Proceedings		
16. Emergency Preparedness/Systems (e.g., fire extinguishers, airpack tags, emergency evacuation routes, control centers, emergency lighting fixtures, safety drills, First Aid and Suicide kits)		
17. Grounds (conditions, unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)		
18. Inspection: Special Focus OIG: <i>Gaps in medical care</i> _____ COC: _____ Community: _____	U	See below
19. COVID-19: _____	U	Staff was unclear on whether 5700 was on a quarantine.
20. PREA Issues: _____		
21. Other: _____		

INSPECTION DETAILS – ANCHORED TO SUMMARY SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 17

INSPECTION DETAIL FOR #1**5700**

5700 is an 88-100 person cell with several rows of double bunks placed very close together. It currently houses people with what has been described to me by staff as an “eclectic” mix of mental health conditions. A working TV blares above the door, and a group of about 15 men stand by to watch it. At the time of my visit, I was informed that 5700 was under a quarantine order due to a potential COVID positive case that was undetermined at the time.

Deputies permit me to enter 5700. When I introduce myself to individuals who are being incarcerated there, they seem eager to report a litany of problems most urgently, mostly are of the Title 15 variety – they say they have no access to the yard, they are not receiving weekly visits by a psychiatrist to adjust their medications, half of the toilets are broken, they are not being provided cleaning supplies and the floors are filthy. Their food portions are not full. Out of the many modules I have visited, the people who wish to speak with me in 5700 present as particularly agitated and they are quite aware that they are being housed in suboptimal conditions that I would describe in my notes as squalor. People indicate their feelings of neglect, harassment, intimidation by staff, who they say are discourteous to them. They expect retaliation for speaking with me.

Complaints of Suicidality Being Ignored

Most significantly, I received numerous complaints that staff are indifferent (or worse) to their complaints of being suicidal. An inmate who tells me he has attempted suicide in the past feels afraid to report feelings of suicidal ideation when they occur. An inmate alleges deputies make remarks advising individuals who complain of suicidal ideation to “do it” on another shift. I reported the complaints about suicidal ideation to the sergeant on duty at the time and briefly discussed conditions. He presented explanations for many of my concerns and reflected some sympathy, but he also did not ask me to identify the individual who had made the complaints about suicide, and that left me with the impression that he was not alarmed. The sergeant acknowledged that conditions in 5700 were challenging.

Quarantine

At the time of visiting, 5700 was on a quarantine order due to an inmate reporting symptoms several days before. But staff did not know this was the case and said they were unaware because the quarantine status was “changing all the time.” They did not know whether the inmate had been tested and whether his status was determined. Staff indicated their belief that HIPAA prohibited their ability to access health information when needed for health and safety purposes. People incarcerated in 5700 were unaware of the quarantine status and sought information about it from me. Meanwhile, inmates uninformed of the heightened risk of spread of COVID did not wear masks.

Programming

I am told no educational programming is available to the population in 5700 though they are eligible for it.

Lack of Privacy for Clinical Consultations

There is no privacy for confidential communication between inmates and clinical staff. A social worker was meeting with similarly situated inmates (from a neighboring module) standing in the hallway, as numerous deputies stood nearby and observed what should have been confidential conversations. Lack of confidentiality or privacy may deter inmates from candidly reporting symptoms or making other complaints here, and without special accommodations appears to make the space ill-suited to meeting the medical or therapeutic needs of the population.

Bathrooms

There is a bathroom in the back of the pod with approximately 10 toilets, half of which were not functioning.

Risk Management

Staff indicated to me there are frequent fights in 5700. A source who requested anonymity told me that DMH staff wish to relocate the population out of 5700 and nearby modules because conditions are believed to be deleterious to health, and suggested that the manner in which the population is housed is making it unsafe.

Air Quality

Inmates report the air was still (no circulation) and hot until the module happened to go on quarantine.

Commissary / Store

Inmates report not receiving their items from commissary, particularly they are unable to obtain the white shoes they order.

5550

5550 is a "H.O.P.E." module — which stands for High Observation Positive Environment. This cell has an open door to the hallway and appears to be under-crowded and highly decompressed. Staff presents empathy. Housed here are people with severe mental health conditions. Conversations with inmates reveal extremely long waits to see a psychiatrist to discuss concerns about medication, dosing, and a sense of indifference to their well-being.

Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

CONDITION OF GROUNDS and EXTERIOR OF BUILDING(S) (lawns, recreation area, blacktop, asphalt, other, general condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters, other)

INTERIOR OF BUILDING(S)

Walls, paint, floors, drains, plumbing fixtures working, air vents, windows:

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Weapons locker present:

Recreation/sports equipment:

Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

Holding areas (cells/rooms) – [if present], is there access to drinking water and toilet?

Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

Beds – Type of bed and is it off the floor?

Adequate lighting:

Temperature: