

## View results

Respondent

21

Anonymous

35:55

Time to complete

### Inspection Information

1. Location \*

Pitchess North

2. Date of Previous Inspection \*

11/6/2023



3. Date of this Inspection \*

3/28/2024



4. Time \*

10:15am

5. Location

Courts

Jails

Sheriff Station

Location



6. Commissioner(s) - (Select all that Apply) \*

- Ingrid Archie
- Haley Broder
- Norma Cumpian
- Wynter Daggs
- Mark - Anthony Clayton Johnson
- Bob Frutos
- Dr. Cheryl N. Grills
- Eric J. Miller
- Raymond Regalado
- Alexander Sherman
- Joahanna Terrones
- Mary Veral
- Other

## Facility Information

7. Facility Name \*

Courthouse names and locations: <https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>

Patrol Names and locations Stations: <https://lasd.org/stations/>

LA County Jail Facilities names and locations: <https://lasd.org/custody/>

PITCHESS DETENTION CENTER (PDC) –NORTH

8. Facility Address \*

Courthouse names and locations: <https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>

Patrol Names and locations Stations: <https://lasd.org/stations/>

LA County Jail Facilities names and locations: <https://lasd.org/custody/>

29320 The Old Road,  
Castaic, California 91384

9. Name and Title of LASD Supervisor Contacted \*

Watch Commander Lieutenant Watters; I also emailed LASD officers Lance Lindsay and Biel who were the usual watch commanders.

10. Census: Capacity \*

1208

11. Current Census \*

1180

12. Location(s) Inspected: \*

Module 2 pod A; Module 4 pod B

13. Issues reported to (Select all that Apply): \*

- BOS
- Officer in Charge
- LASD
- ISD
- OIG
- COC
- Other

14. Name of the person(s) issues were reported to: \*

Lieutenant Watters; Lance Lindsay  
Biel

15. Contact Information of the person(s) contacted: \*

lalinda@lasd.org  
jtbiel@lasd.org

## Conditions of Confinement

16. **Condition of Confinement:** Cells/Toilets/Sinks

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

17. **Condition of Confinement COMMENTS RE:** Cells/Toilets/Sinks

In both Module 2 and Module 4 the water was cloudy and needed a filter.

18. **Condition of Confinement:** Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

## Nutrition

19. **Nutrition:** Quality/Concerns

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

20. **Nutrition COMMENT RE:** Quality/Concerns

The cost of canteen or commissary food has been significantly increased, and sometimes the canteen or commissary does not come so incarcerated people cannot buy food. Many of the people incarcerated in the dorms complained about receiving the same lunch of peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches and a juice box every day.

21. **Nutrition:** Access to special diets

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

22. **Nutrition COMMENT RE:** Access to special diets

During the service of the once-per-day hot meal, special diets were served cold.

## Trustees

23. **Trustees:** Quarters

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

24. **Trustees:** Training and Selection

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

25. **Trustees COMMENTS RE:** Training and Selection

None of the people incarcerated in Pitchess North are eligible to serve as trustees, who are defined as "low risk inmates...given increased responsibility to maintain the overall cleanliness of the jails." To cope with the absence of North trustees, LASD transports trustees in from Pitchess South.

26. **Trustees:** Workload and Hours

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

**Medical Services**

## 27. Medical Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
TB and Other Medical Screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Dental	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Infectious Disease Protocol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

## 28. COMMENTS RE: Medical

One of the purposes of the visit was to become better informed on the progress of the conversion of the jail from mostly general population to people with significant mental illness, as well as to determine whether the people incarcerated in North were receiving their medication on time, a problem noted in prior visits. Both the Deputies and the people incarcerated in North reported that medication was dispensed regularly and mostly on time.

Pitchess North does not have an on-site medical facility nor housing for people with a mental health status below or above P2. Accordingly, the new population needs more transportation, and often much more lengthy transportation, not simply to court in Los Angeles, but also to hospital elsewhere on the Pitchess campus, as well as to Twin Towers or to Men's Central Jail should their mental health change.

Many of the people I spoke with complained that they were not getting sufficient access to medical attention, including medication and eyeglasses, as well as medical follow up.

## Mental Health

## 29. Mental Health Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treatment Options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment Procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 30. **COMMENTS RE:** Mental Health

The Watch Commander was on overtime from his usual non-jail deployment, and the LASD Deputies directed me to a Deputy identified as most fully informed on the operation of the jail. He stated that for at least the previous one-and-a-half months, the jail now had the services of a full time psychiatrist 5 days a week (but not 24 hours per day) and on weekends from 4-6 hours. The jail also used telepsychiatry to ensure that people incarcerated in North could access psychiatric help. The Deputy also said that North did not suffer the same problems with transportation to court that afflicted other jails in the County.

This and other Deputies did, however, identify a number of structural challenges stemming from converting a jail designed for general population, where the people housed do not have a significant mental impairment, to housing a population of people categorized as P2 or above, which means that they have "[r]ecurrent episodes of mood instability; Psychotic symptoms maintained by medication and frequent reliance on crisis stabilization services." This population qualifies as "Moderate Observation Housing," (MOH) and requires safety checks every 30 minutes.

Each dormitory, though "designed for no more than 64 inmates," Title 24, §1231.2.8 Dormitories, has a capacity of 80 people. Pitchess North was close to capacity in all the dormitories, with 314 of 324 spaces occupied in Module 2, including all 8 spaces in E-Pod, which was primarily designed to hold individuals with disciplinary problems, but now also held 3 individuals who were designated "High Observation Housing" (HOH) because their mental health had deteriorated, and were awaiting transportation to Twin Towers.

LASD Deputies reported that this new population requires more resources than previously provided at Pitchess North, including more frequent safety checks, but also more psychiatric treatment, including in-person visits and remote, telepsychiatric visits. None of the people incarcerated in Pitchess North are eligible to serve as trustees, who are defined as "low risk inmates...given increased responsibility to maintain the overall cleanliness of the jails." To cope with the absence of North trustees, LASD transports trustees in from Pitchess South.

A significant problem was the housing of people whose mental health deteriorated, so that they were categorized P3 ("Unstable due to significant mental illness; persistent danger of hurting self in less acute care setting; or recurrent violence due to emotional instability") or P4 ("P4: Severe debilitating symptoms; Meets LPS 5150 criteria for danger to self, others, or grave disability"), requiring them to be removed from the dormitories. As noted, in Module 2, three people designated P3 or above were held in the disciplinary pod as High Observation Housing, and had been there multiple days while awaiting a space to open up for them in Twin Towers, according to the Deputies on duty.

In particular, all the LASD Deputies in the Modules visited raised major concerns about their ability to cope with the increased demands put on the Deputies. Some of these complaints concerned the ways in which catering to mentally ill people required more staff to engage in transportation for medical issues, leaving less staff in the dormitories. Another stress was the requirement that Deputies engage in more frequent safety checks, which required 2-3 Deputies to check the dorms every 30 minutes. Other complaints noted that people with mental illness require different skills from Deputies, and that some Deputies did not have extensive prior experience working with this population.

## Telephones

### 31. **Telephones**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Functionality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 32. **COMMENTS RE:** Telephones

One of the phones in Module 2 A dorm was broken and one of the phones in Module 4 B dorm was broken. Both the Deputies and the people incarcerated there said that the other phones worked intermittently and needed fixed. Another complaint was that the information message box was full and the inmate could not leave a message.



## Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

### 33. Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 34. COMMENTS RE: EBI Programming

Some incarcerated people complained about lack of access to information about programming.

### 35. EBI: Volunteer Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

### 36. COMMENTS RE EBI: Volunteer Services

## Clean Clothing and Bedding

### 37. Clean Clothing and Bedding (including laundry practices)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

38. **COMMENTS RE: Clean Clothing and Bedding** (including laundry practices)

Most of the people incarcerated in the Dorms complained that the mattresses were too thin and were moldy, and that they had insufficient pillows. I saw at least one of the mattresses, and it did have mold on it.

## Facilities/Maintenance

39. **Facilities/Maintenance: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)**

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

## Deputy Staffing

40. **Deputy Staffing: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Use of Force (Last 30 days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

41. **Deputy Staffing COMMENTS RE: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees**

Deputies complained that the problems with staffing, noted below, resulted in a deterioration of their interactions with people detained in the dorms because the deputies could not respond effectively to reasonable requests of concerns. Even in with an ordinary population, but especially with people who have a mental illness, Deputies reported that this led to frustrations on the part of incarcerated people, who then took their frustrations out on the Deputies.

**42. Detainee Complaints/Concerns COMMENTS:**

Detainees response confirmed that they were frustrated with lack of access to various facilities, such as commissary and to be able to change the television, as well as transportation to medical facilities. Some of these problems had already been identified by the Deputies as stemming from staffing issues.

**43. Deputy Complaint/Concerns COMMENTS:**

All the LASD Deputies in the Modules visited raised major concerns about their ability to cope with the increased demands put on the Deputies. Some of these complaints concerned the ways in which catering to mentally ill people required more staff to engage in transportation for medical issues, leaving less staff in the dormitories. Another stress was the requirement that Deputies engage in more frequent safety checks, which required 2-3 Deputies to check the dorms every 30 minutes. Other complaints noted that people with mental illness require different skills from Deputies, and that some Deputies did not have extensive prior experience working with this population.

In particular, some of the Deputies complained that North was "super-short staffed" produced a staffing chart showing that about half the positions were either "closed" or "unavailable to fill." The Deputies suggested that a significant number of the positions were "unavailable to fill" because Deputies found it hard to work with this population and would call in as unavailable. The shortage of Deputies was exacerbated by frequent calls to transport patients to a remote medical facility or to other jails downtown, whether because the incarcerated person has changed their mental health status or because they cannot cope with life in a large dormitory rather than a smaller cell. Each time an incarcerated person requires transportation, they must be accompanied by two officers. Deputies suggested that whereas when Moderate Observation Housing safety checks were first instituted, policy required a minimum of three officers per round of checks, that number had been dropped to two.

Deputies suggested these problems with transportation were exacerbated by the dilapidated nature of the squad cars, which were described as hand-me-downs, often without air conditioning, but for security reasons the Deputies could not open the rear windows. In addition, the Deputies claimed a fleet of new squad cars had been left unattended for so long they had become rat-infested and unusable.

Deputies also noted that there was no provision to have a psychiatric nurse or doctor available 24 hours per day at the facility, and suggested that some of the newer nurses who had not worked at the facility for a long time did not like the conditions and so there was a lot of turnover among the nursing staff. In addition, the nurses were more likely to resolve problems with the people they were treating by asking that they be moved to the medical facility, which then required two deputies to transport the incarcerated person, reducing staffing in the dorms. Nurses were more likely to ask for emergency assistance than deputies, requiring more deputies to accompany the nursing staff, causing deputy shortages elsewhere on the dorms.

The deputies in Module 2 only allowed me inside A dorm for 10 minutes because they had to conduct a safety check in the other dorms. I was able to continue to interview people who wished to talk to me through the sally port.

**44. Prior Corrective Action Resolution:**

**45. Detainee Documentations (e.g., intake/release, procedures):**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Classification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Logs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Detainee management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Exit interview - policies/procedure grievances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generated funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**46. Detainee Documentation COMMENTS:**

An incarcerated person complained that he had not heard back about his grievance appeal in over a month. I have informed LASD by email about this concern.

**47. Discipline Proceedings:**

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

**Inspection: Special Focus**

**48. Inspection: Special Focus**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Available
COC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DMH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DPH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OIG	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

49. Inspection: Special Focus Request *(Select all that Apply)*:

- COC
- Community
- CHS
- DMH
- DPH
- Facilities
- Food Services
- OIG
- N/A
- Other

50. Inspection: Special Focus Request Comments:

51. **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Issues:**

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

**INSPECTION DETAILS - ANCHORED TO SUMMARIZE #3 THROUGH #106**

52. Inspection Detail for #:

The people incarcerated had some consistent general concerns. In both Module 2 and Module 4 the water was cloudy and needed a filter. In both Modules incarcerated people asked that they be given a clock. In Module 2 they asked for access to cleaning supplies.

During the service of the once-per-day hot meal, special diets were served cold. The cost of canteen or commissary food has been significantly increased, and sometimes the canteen or commissary does not come so incarcerated people cannot buy food. Many of the people incarcerated in the dorms complained about receiving the same lunch of peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches and a juice box every day.

One of the phones in Module 2 A dorm was broken and one of the phones in Module 4 B dorm was broken. Both the Deputies and the people incarcerated there said that the other phones worked intermittently and needed fixed. Another complaint was that the information message box was full and the inmate could not leave a message.

The mirrors in Module 4 B dorm were opaques and could not be used for shaving or other grooming purposes.

In both dorms, the people incarcerated complained there was only one small hot pot for all 80 people, and that it was so often used that the pot had a significant build up of lime scale or calcification.

Some of the inmates complained that the lights were left on all nights, which was corroborated by a Deputy. Others complained that if someone needed to be removed at night the Deputies would shout on them to come out, waking up other of the incarcerated people.

Most of the people incarcerated in the Dorms complained that the mattresses were too thin and were moldy, and that they had insufficient pillows. I saw at least one of the mattresses, and it did have mold on it.

Many of the people I spoke with complained that they were not getting sufficient access to medical attention, including medication and eyeglasses, as well as medical follow up.

Some of the incarcerated people wanted a remote to be able to control the television programs they watched; currently the programs are controlled by the Deputies.

Some of the incarcerated people complained that there was not enough information on programming and wanted access to a law library. Many of them complained that LASD facilities lacked the multi-purpose terminals available in other California jail systems that would allow them to keep track of commissary, engage in teleconferencing with psychiatric officials, and has a clock to keep track of time.

Black people incarcerated in the facility complained that they lacked access to grooming products catering to Black people.

53. Inspection Detail for #:

54. Inspection Detail for #:

55. Inspection Detail for **OIG** Request Related to:

56. Inspection Detail for **COC** Request Related to:

57. Inspection Detail for **Community Request** Related to:

58. **Inspection Detail:** EBI

59. **Inspection Detail:** Medical

60. **Inspection Detail:** Medical

61. **Inspection Detail:** Building and Maintenance *(Select all that apply)*

- Lawns
- Recreation Area
- Blacktop
- Asphalt
- General Condition
- Paint
- Roof
- Drains/Gutters
- Not Applicable
- Other

62. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

**INSPECTION DETAIL: INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS(S)**

63. **Inspection Detail:** Interior of Building(s) and Maintenance *(Select all that apply)*

- Walls
- Paint
- Floors
- Drains
- Plumbing fixtures working
- Air Vents
- Windows
- Not Applicable
- Other

64. Inspection Detail **Interior of Building:**

65. Are Cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Other

66. Weapons locker present?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Other



67. Recreation/Sports Equipment:

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

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Other

69. Holding areas (cells/rooms), is there access to drinking water and toilet?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Drinking water was available but cloudy and needed fixed.

70. Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

71. Beds - Type of bed and is it off the floor?

72. Adequate lighting:

73. Temperature: