View results

Respondent

50 Anonymous



Inspection Information

1. Location *

PITCHESS DETENTION CENTER (PDC) -SOUTH

2. Date of Previous Inspection *

2/24/2025	

3. Date of this Inspection *

2/27/2025		
-----------	--	--

4. Time *

9:30AM

5. Location

	Courts	Jails	Sheriff Station
Location	\bigcirc		\bigcirc

), 11.10 AM	Sybil Bland Commission INSPECTION
6. Commissioner(s) - (Select all that Apply) *	
Ingrid Archie	
Puja Bhatia	
Haley Broder	
Norma Cumpian	
Vynter Daggs	
Mark - Anthony Clayton Johnson	
Bob Frutos	
Dr. Cheryl N. Grills	
Katherine Hennigan Ohanesian	
 Eric J. Miller 	
Raymond Regalado	
Alexander Sherman	
Joahanna Terrones	
Mary Veral	
Other	

Facility Information

7. Facility Name *

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

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

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

PITCHESS DETENTION CENTER (PDC) -SOUTH

8. Facility Address *

Courthouse names and Locations: https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse

Patrol Names and Station Locations: https://lasd.org/stations/

LA County Jail Facilities Names and Locations: <u>https://lasd.org/custody/</u>

29330 The Old Road, Castaic, California 91384

9. Name and Title of LASD Supervisor Contacted *

Sgt. Walsh

10. Census: Capacity *

1540

11. Current Census *

404

12. Location(s) Inspected: *

Adams Compound, Henry Compound, Lower Chow Hall, King Compund

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



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

Sgt. Walsh

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

661-295-8805 bfwalsh2@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

1 urinal leaks, otherwise OK

- 18. Condition of Confinement: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable

19. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

2 of the 3 compounds we visited had shower water temperature regulation issues.

20. Condition of Confinement: Crowding

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

21. Condition of Confinement: Cleanliness/Graffiti

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

22. Condition of Confinement: Safety, Conflict, Tension

- Satisfactory
 Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

23. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Safety, Conflict, Tension

Generally there is little conflict however the extreme lack of access to phones for the 100+ men per compound (and up to 270 possible) is causing conflict between racial groups which resulted in a race riot the week prior to our visit.

24. Condition of Confinement: Common Areas

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

25. Condition of Confinement: Air Quality/Temperature

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

26. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Air Quality/Temperature

Luckily the barracks have AC and heat which was comfortable during our visit. The main issue was one compound experience intense steaminess a quarter of the way into the main dorm space due to hot water temperatures.

27. Condition of Confinement: Deputy/Detainee Relations (Including Specific Incidents or allegations of misconduct)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

28. Condition of Confinement: Strip Search Issues

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

29. Condition of Confinement: Access (Drinking Water)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

30. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Access (Drinking Water)

Minor water cloudiness for drinking water and harsh water from showers staining the floor and curtains. The incarcerated peopel thought it was chlorine in the water doing this.

31. Condition of Confinement: Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

32. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)

There were small piles of books in the day room corners of each barracks but some readers requested a formal library would be nice.

33. Condition of Confinement: Access (Toilets for Common Room)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

34. Condition of Confinement: Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

35. Condition of Confinement: Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

36. Condition of Confinement: Access (Legal Counsel)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

37. Condition of Confinement: Access (Visitation, Correspondence)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

38. Condition of Confinement: Solitary Confinement

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

39. Condition of Confinement: Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable
- 40. **Condition of Confinement:** Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable
- 41. Condition of Confinement: Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint, developmental disability)
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable
- 42. Condition of Confinement: Complaint Procedure (e.g., Deputy, Medical Complaints Confidential Procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable
- 43. Condition of Confinement: Fees Assessed/ Money on Books
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable

44. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Fees Assessed/ Money on Books

Conistent concerns with the outrageous commissary pricing

45. Condition of Confinement: Other

NA

46. Condition of Confinement: Other

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

Nutrition

47. Nutrition: Quality/Concerns

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

48. Nutrition: Access to special diets

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

Trustees

Satisfactory

- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

50. Trustees: Training and Selection

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

51. Trustees: Workload and Hours

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

52. Trustees: Calculation/Time Served

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

Medical Services

Sybil Brand Commission INSPECTION REPORT

53. Medical Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Wait Times	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Responsiveness	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
TB and Other Medical Screening	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	۲
Dental	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Vision	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Infectious Disease Protocol	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	

54. COMMENTS RE: Medical

We did not inquire about medica. There were no specific medical requests. After the fight at the Adams Compound, Sgt Walsh did share that the injured parties went immediately to medical.

Mental Health

55. Mental Health Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Wait Times	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Treatment Options	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Assessment Procedures	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	۲

56. COMMENTS RE: Mental Health

Did not inquire

Telephones

Sybil Brand Commission INSPECTION REPORT

57. Telephones

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Functionality	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		\bigcirc

58. COMMENTS RE: Telephones

In the 3 compounds we visited the VAST majority of phones were broken. Adams: 6 of 22 worked, Henry: 6 of 22 worked, and King (SMART Program): 1 of 22 worked. In barrack phones were regularly damaged as well.

Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

59. Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)



60. COMMENTS RE: EBI Programming

While EBI still needs to recover post-pandemic, the EBI program was well attended when we were there and it seems the EBI team on the ground is tentative to the programming.

61. EBI: Volunteer Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Туре	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Access	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Concerns	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	

62. COMMENTS RE EBI: Volunteer Services

Did not inquire

Clean Clothing and Bedding

- 63. Clean Clothing and Bedding (including laundry practices)
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable

Facilities/Maintenance

- 64. Facilities/Maintenance: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable

65. Facilities/Maintenance COMMENTS RE: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

Not sure

66. Facilities/Maintenance: Kitchen/Laundry

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable
- 67. Facilities/Maintenance: Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Corrective Action Needed
 - Not Applicable

Deputy Staffing

68. Deputy Staffing: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Use of Force (Last 30 days)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	۲
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	۲
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	۲

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

Did not inquire

70. Detainee Complaints/Concerns COMMENTS:

In narrative

71. Deputy Complaint/Concerns COMMENTS:

NA

72. Prior Corrective Action Resolution:

NA

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

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Classification	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Logs	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Detainee management	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Exit interview - policies/proced ure grievances	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	۲
Generated funds	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

74. Detainee Documentation COMMENTS:

Did not inquire

75. Discipline Proceedings:

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

76. Emergency Preparedness/Systems:

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Fire Extinguishers	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	۲
Airpack Tags	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Emergency Evacuation Routes		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Control Centers	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Emergency Lighting Fixtures	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	۲
Safety Drills		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
First Aid and Suicide Kits	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	

77. Emergency Preparedness/Systems COMMENTS:

Checked some but not all	

78. Grounds:

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Conditions		\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)	۲	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

79. Grounds COMMENTS:

NA

Inspection: Special Focus

80. Inspection: Special Focus

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Available
СОС	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Community	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
CHS	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
DMH	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
DPH	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Facilties	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Food Services	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
OIG	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Other	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

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

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

82. Inspection: Special Focus Request Comments:

83. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Issues:

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

INSPECTION DETAILS - ANCHORED TO SUMMARIZE #3 THROUGH #106

84. Inspection Detail for #:

85. Inspection Detail for #:

86. Inspection Detail for #:

- 87. Inspection Detail for **OIG** Request Related to:
- 88. Inspection Detail for **COC** Request Related to:
- 89. Inspection Detail for Community Request Related to:

90. Inspection Detail: EBI

91. Inspection Detail: Medical

92. Inspection Detail: Medical

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

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

94. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

INSPECTION DETAIL: INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS(S)

95. 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

96. Inspection Detail Interior of Building:

Buildings were in fairly good shape.

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

		Yes
	\bigcirc	No
	\bigcirc	Not Applicable
	\bigcirc	Other
98.	Wea	pons locker present?
	\bigcirc	Yes
	\bigcirc	No
		Not Applicable
	\bigcirc	Other

99. Recreation/Sports Equipment:

Did not visit uard

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

- Yes
 No
 Not Applicable
- Other

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

- YesNoNot Applicable
- Other

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

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

triple bunk, off the floor

104. Adequate lighting:

105. Temperature:

Comfortable

106. Narrative Report

OVERALL

- 3 compounds closed refurbishment to get the staff enclosed

- Each compound has 3 barracats/buildings
- Barracks are filled with 3 man bunks, barracks style, with porches and attached outdoor mini yard and phone area for the 3 barracks to share
- They can use the connected outdoor area approximately 1 hour at a time each day

- They do not have clocks in their barracks. There is only one clock in the yard area approximately 10 - 50 yards from their respective building depending on which they are in.

- They get yard time once a week

- Staff reported that there is very little tension between themselves and the people incarcerated there due to the housing set up, daily access to outdoor areas,

cleaner conditions and the other "privileges" that come with being at the South facility compared to MCJ or even the North facility. - Many of the outdoor phones do not work. The phone company informed the Sheriff's Department that it was due to significant damage to the in-ground lines for the phones.

- Sgt Walsh shared that there have been 2 overdoses in the last 5 years at this facility. He feels this is due to the incarcerated individual who "shoot calls" not allowing other incarcerated individuals to be in possession of fentanyl specifically.

- During our time at the facility, we saw many incarcerated workers or trustees. Green uniforms indicated inside workers, and yellow uniforms indicated outside workers.

- Incarcerated individuals here recently received a shingles vaccination. They were told that they could refuse, and if they did they would be but in quarantine. The men shared they have not seen anyone go to quarantine for this though.

- We saw NARCAN in all the barracks.
- Request form boxes were filled but some people shared it takes a long time to get responses.
- Have AC & heat in all occupied buildings.
- Overall the floors in the dwelling space was relatively clean in all barracks.
- Each compound we visited had ample cleaning solution.
- It is important to not that they do not provide speciality diets at this facility and if people need speciality diets they are transferred to a different facility.
- They have vending machines in the compound shared outdoor space and they individuals can purchase vending cards to acces them.

EIB

- There was a well attended EIB program
- When we were there, they were offering sociology, high school classes, and vocational classes (anger management) that day.

- The EBI program here is currently full. Each day they run multiple classes Monday through Friday. The high school classes run year round, Monday through Friday, and the college classes (through College of the Canyons) run Mondays and Wednesdays. The enrollment for high school classes is year round and the college classes are on the enrollment schedule of the year. Incarcerated individuals can enroll by asking a staff or filling out the request form.

- Sgt. Lopez (badge #8228) has been with the EIB Program for 13 years and deeply believes in the benefits of programs for the people inside. He shared the programing has still not recovered since the pandemic. Specifically they had an average of 35 teachers at South prior to the pandemic, and they currently have about 16 despite his and his team's efforts.

- The EIB team onsite shared that the men at the facility can continue their education through Coastline College even once they go home.

- If people are pre-trial, they cannot fully enroll, but they can do a 7 session milestone program.

107. Narrative Continued

REGARDNG EVACUATION

- Sgt Walsh heard from other people working that they didn't feel they needed to evacuate, but they did anyway because they felt that they had time on their side and could use that to have a more spacious time to have staff go through all the steps. They were able to evacuate effectively in one hour.

- They moved the incarcerated individuals to NCCF in the 600 building.

- Though St Walsh left right before they found out they had to evacuate, he remembered seeing at least 8 busses onsite at the time of his departure and he let us know that in a pinch they can also use the laundry busses to transport people with lower levels.

- He also shared that in his nearly 6 years at the South Facility, there had only ever been 1 fire on the property back in 2019, in which they lost one structure but no people were injured

108. Narrative Continued

109. Narrative Continued

ADAMS COMPUND

- Only 6 of the 22 phones in their yard work.

- This recently caused strife between the incarcerated individuals at the Adams compound. Sgt Walsh shared there was a "riot" / "racial fight" / "incident" that occurred between Black and Latino incarcerated individuals in the yard on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. This incident was regarding the limited phone access in the shared outdoor space. The limited phone access is causing strife and safety concerns. Due to this incident there were no Black individuals in any of the Adams Compound. There were 80 - 100 people involved in the fight and 5 individuals had to seek medical attention following the incident.

*Adams - Building 33

-1 out of 2 of the phones are broken. The phones are located very close to the showers and it is very likely that the moisture is damages the phones more quickly - Contributing to this is that the water for the showers is way to hot and steams up about a quarter of the barracks, into the space with the men's bunks. One of the main complaints of the individuals housed in the 33 building was the exorbitant commissary pricing. As an example, they cited that a pack of soup is \$32 and \$8-9 for coffee.

- One person also uplifted that the 1 adult,1 child limitation for visitation is specifically hard for him, because he has two kids. Luckily, when I mentioned this to Sgt. Walsh that as of this weekend (March 1, 2025), they will be increasing the visitation limit to 2 adults and 1 child, or 1 adult and 2 children.

- The people in this building complained that the water is too harsh and the shower curtain was visibly stained.

- The drinking water is mildly foggy when you originally put it in a container, but it clears up.

- Many people had complaints about the quality of the food and specifically what is in the meat.

- Consistent with the North facility, these people have to wake up at 2am to make their court dates. They shared frustration that if they have court at San Fernando or Van Nuys, they have to pass the courthouse to go to MCJ and then travel backwards.

-5+ men shared that they estimate that they have missed the majority of their court dates, and when they do "bus issues" are cited. One man shared that he had been to two court dates in his 8 month time being incarcerated at South. Another man shared that even when he has made it, sometimes they are delayed and by the time he makes it to the court, his (paid) lawyer leaves because he cannot wait for him. Additionally, Ibarra (#6932537) shared that he has missed 2-3 court dates in the last 2.5 months.

-4 additional Sheriffs came to this compound during our time talking to these men. Officer Gasca was specifically mindful to be where we were during the inspection of this compound, and gave commentary as we spoke to the incarcerated individuals.

- Count: 31

- Max: 90

*Building 32

- When they flush one of the urinals leaks

- 1 of the 2 phones in the barrack has a messed up cord

- 2 people shared they felt informed during the fire.

- There is no clock in the dorm.

- There is a pile of books in the barracks that one man was reading. They would like a more formal library and additional books.

- They shared that it takes at least 2 - 2.5 weeks for mail and often has delays. Two people (Chavarria #6946086 & Marquez #6948910) had a loved ones share that they sent mail the last week of January but he still hasn't received the mail.

- Count: 43

- Max: 90

*Building 31

- Both phones in this building worked after a technician came out and fixed it last week. They also have the issue of only having scalding hot water in this building and the steaminess and moisture is likely damaging the phones more often.

- They also complained of delayed mail.

110. Narrative Continued

CHOW HALL

- There was no residual food. The floors and the surfaces were clean. This is a testament to the incarcerated workers at this facility who keep that area clean.

- Each compound comes there to eat their hot meal each day.

- Sgt. Walsh shared that they used to have 1 Chow Hall but the recently opened a second one to serve the lower compounds and that had 2 major impacts: 1) cut the overall food time down from 3 hours to 1.5 hours, and 2) lessened the passing of contraband amongst individuals.

HENERY COMPOUND

- Only 6 of the 22 phones in their yard work.

*Building 43

- Not yet refurbished

- They had unpredictable water temperatures as well. 2 -3 minutes of hot water before it turns cold and then hot again f someone flushes.

- Some individuals felt the instructional video each morning was too long.

- Count: 52

- Max: 90

KING COMPOUND

- Only 1 of the 22 phones in their yard work.

*Building 46

- This building is dedicated to the START Program and very low level

- The people here shared they were having trouble recieing books from Amazon. Soecially Vargas #6723766
- One person shared they experienced a delay in their lawyer recieiving his mail.

- Count: 33 - Max: 90

- 111. Narrative Continued
- 112. Overall, how would you rate this facility? *
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory