



Greene County

Juvenile Detention Center

History



- Built 1991
- Prior location

The current juvenile office was built and moved into early in 1991. For those of you that are not familiar, the juvenile detention center is connected to the Juvenile Office on the north end of the building on the north end of the Greene County Campus. I have a distinct memory of this as that was also when I moved into the Juvenile Office. Prior to that, the Juvenile Office and Detention Center were located in the building that is currently occupied by the County Commission, purchasing, the print shop and mail room.

About us

- Employees
- Shifts
- Facility
- A little bit of data

The detention center is comprised of 19 Employees – 1 superintendent, 1 asst. superintendent, 7 Deputy Juvenile Officers, 6 FTYL, 4 PTYL.

We are a 24/7/365 operation and by MO Detention Standards should have minimum of three staff on shift at all times.

We were built as a 24 bed maximum security facility for boys and girls. Currently, 4 rooms are in our intake/holding area for short term or suicide risk placement, 19 rooms are for youth cleared for general population and no suicide risk, and 1 room has been converted to a calming room as part of the Juvenile Offices effort to become more trauma informed.

In 2016, 222 youth were admitted to detention 21% were Female, 31% were youth of color. We hold kids for Greene County, but also several surrounding circuits and the Division of Youth Services. These Out of Circuit holds accounted for 66 of the youth detained.

Our ALOS for a youth in detention is 12.5 days and on any given day we have an average of 7 youth in our facility

In 2016 over \$116,000 was added to the County General Revenue for the youth held in detention. These funds came from OCH, state reimbursement, USDA food reimbursement, etc.

On any given day...

- Education
- Programming
- Meals
- Hygiene
- Schedule

Youth are provided education services through SPS. SPS provides a FT teacher, 2 pt aides and 1 pt Title I teacher. The youth are in school 6 hours each week day. Schooling extends year around thanks to a grant through CFO that supplements our summer education.

We have partnerships with Drury, to provide Music therapy; MSU, to provide art group; Freeway Ministries, to provide a faith based group; Office of Emergency Mngt., to provide emergency preparedness; Burrell Behavioral Health, which conduct Trauma and PREA groups. Programming provided by these community partners is supplemented by staff led programming. Additionally, Mercy Corporate Health, provides health assessments and medical services to youth; internally we have a Clinical Based Services Coordinator that provides a MH assessment for youth admitted to the facility and finally, Evangel has provided financial support to fund our calming room.

Our meals are prepared and purchased from the Greene County Jail. Additionally, we provide the youth an evening snack.

Each day youth are expected and given opportunity to manage their personal hygiene, shower and change into clean clothing. Laundry services are provided by the detention staff.

Youth get out of bed at 6:30am for breakfast, complete morning hygiene and prepare for school. Go to school at 8am – 12pm. Staff feed the youth lunch at 12pm and then they have free activity until they return to school at 1pm. The school day ends at 3pm and they have free rec until 3:30pm. At 3:30, depending on the day, they either go to programming or to their rooms for shift change until 5:30pm. At 5:30 they come back out for dinner. There is typically an hour of programming in the evening, an hour of gym time and then free rec/snack/showers. The residents return to their rooms at 9:30 with lights out at 10pm

On the top of our game...

- Community partnerships
- Programming
- Staff
- Efforts toward excellence

We have very strong community partnerships that allow us the capacity to meet needs of kids not just house them until court or placement.

These programming efforts have reduced our idle wake hours to regularly below 2 hours. In other words, from 6:30am – 9:30pm the youth are in their rooms less than 2 hours each day. This is important for the good mental health and increased positive socialization of youth. Our desire, is that each youth that exits our facility is better off than when they arrived, ultimately reducing the likelihood that they return.

We have an exceptional crew working in detention. Each of them has a heart and passion for the work they do AND they work hard to make sure that the work is done right. Like all jobs, not all parts of their work are glamorous, BUT they are strong team players and work together to accomplish their tasks

We participate in a variety of initiatives and programs that keep our attention toward excellence.

1. JDAI – Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative which helps ensure we are placing the right kids into secure detention.
2. PREA – Prison Rape Elimination Act which is a Federal compliance
3. PbS – Performance Based Standards which is a quality control mechanism that allow us to compare our services against other detention centers nationally

Along the rocky road...

- Staffing compliance
- Meal service
- Maintenance
- Security

Challenges that we experience in the facility include:

Staffing compliance – In the first year staff are expected to have a minimum of 40 hours of training and 20 hours each year after. However, that time won't nearly accomplish the minimum training staff need to do their jobs effectively. 24 hours of Safe Crisis Management, 8 hours of CPR first aid, Training in Mandated Reporting, PREA, suicide prevention, Medication dispensing, and behavior management are all necessary for staff to do their job well. Covering shifts in detention and maintaining training standards has been challenging. Often the superintendent and asst superintendent work on shift to make up for short falls.

While meals are prepared by the jail, they don't deliver. The need to pick up meals by our staff has presented a couple of challenges. First, the juggling of staff to free someone up to pick up the meal. Secondly, the lack of a hot breakfast option due to the availability of staff in the morning hours.

Maintenance and custodial services. I want to be clear that this isn't a complaint about the services we receive because those are good. However, the challenge of keeping up with the maintenance is difficult at best. The building is aging and needs more attention to correct the problem that exist.

Finally, the security systems are dated and lack functions that allow staff to adequately supervise and complete necessary tasks.

Clearing the path

- Additional staff
- Delivery of meals
- Additional maintenance and custodial staff
- Upgraded security system

On the Horizon

- Improve the internal training process for detention employees
- Seek additional community partners to continue to improve the quality of programming for the youth placed in detention.
- Identify facility improvement opportunities through PbS

Thank you for the invitation!!

Susan Cox, Superintendent

Greene County Juvenile Detention

417-829-6145

Susan.cox@courts.mo.gov