

2014 Annual Report

of the

Clark County Sheriff's Office Corrections Branch



Chief's Message

In 2014 the Corrections Branch continued work in Reentry and Suicide Mitigation. The goal of both initiatives was improved community and jail safety. Our branch is moving towards leadership in both areas at the state and national levels. Anecdotal feedback for Reentry remained positive and supported by the community. Inmate safety from self-harm, while supported by the community, did not reach the goal of zero deaths.

During this year, our branch has been able to increase the number of employees. The increase of eight corrections deputies will allow us to open 141 beds between the Jail Work Center and H pod. These beds are intended to reduce population pressure at the main jail, while providing a more therapeutic environment for our mildly mentally ill in H pod.

Our greatest challenge in 2014 was recruiting and hiring corrections deputies. Despite concentration of resources to the hiring process, we were unable to meet our goals. Hiring will continue to be a high priority in 2015.

Moving into 2015, we are continuing our work in Reentry and jail safety under the leadership of Sheriff Elect Atkins and his newly named executive management team. This has been, and promises to be, a very exciting time in Corrections at the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

The improvements and forward thinking innovations accomplished this year would not have been possible without the persistence, innovation and dedication to public safety, demonstrated on a daily basis, by the men and women working in the Clark County Main Jail and Jail Work Center. The credit for our advancements in public safety, begin and continue with their commitment to public safety.

Ric Bishop

Operations

Main Jail Operations

Inmates at the Clark County Jail awaiting trial or sanctions, sentenced for their crime, or are in transit elsewhere; rely on the assistance, expertise, and professionalism of the Corrections Staff. These professionals undergo an intense hiring process, orientation, and training program which also involves a requirement to pass the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy. Even as we experienced the retirement of some of our most senior members and turn-over to other departments and agencies, our recruitment and commitment to hiring, retention, and promotion of quality staff has enabled us to maintain an outstanding team.

Besides trying to operate a direct supervision philosophy in a jail that was built for indirect supervision; a building that is grossly outdated and unwieldy in its design, the make-up of the inmate population largely contributes to staffing levels. Inmates deemed violent or high risk and those with severe mental health disorders require more staff, more time, and more attention. Standard procedure is for all intakes to undergo a medical screening however mental illness may not be easily identified. To estimate the population of inmates requiring mental health related prescriptions we take “snapshots” of the inmate population and identify those prescribed medications for diagnoses such as anxiety, depression, and psychotic disorders.

Positive steps have been taken to alleviate the chronic staff vacancies and create systems which can be used to gather and analyze crucial data for root cause analysis of recidivism, our specific jail population statistics, and important trends that effect efficiency, operations, and risk management. On a day to day basis, our staff excel and remain committed to their public service duties despite chronic vacancies and the often volatile environment within which they work. Corrections staff are tasked with and held accountable for carrying out the TRANSFORM mission. Their adoption of those concepts and commitment to law enforcement is a credit and sign of professionalism for staff who have risen to the challenges put before them. Operations staff will continue to provide assistance, direction, and management to the inmates while strategic vision and proper oversight will continue to support and leverage our staff’s talents.

Day shift

Day shift is responsible for the functions of the jail during the normal work hours. This includes all inmate movement for courts, normal medical appointments, professional visits, and recreation.

Swing shift

Swing shift is responsible for relieving all dayshift deputies for their lunch breaks, linen exchange in all areas of the main jail and working the control rooms in the living units during the evening shift. This year the Deputy of the Year came from swing shift, Deputy Scott Gentry.

Graveyard shift

Graveyard is responsible for working in the Booking unit, Main Control, suicide area, medical unit and property (from where all inmates are released).



Jail Work Center:

The Jail Work Center is a minimum security campus that has the following areas: the In-Custody building; the Work Release building; and the Industries building, which contain the kitchen, laundry, and the warehouse.

Housing

2014 continued to see all JWC inmates housed in the same building. For example: partial-confinement inmates (WA DOC work release offenders and Clark County work release inmates) are still housed with full-confinement inmates (inmate workers). Although this change was originally due to a redeployment of deputies to minimize overtime expenditures, the dynamic continues due to lack of staffing.

In-Custody Minimum Security Inmates

Staff also monitor and supervise minimum security non-work release inmates. Most of the non-work release inmates are inmate workers (also known as trusties). The inmate workers from this building are dispersed to various work locations: kitchen; laundry; jail industries; grounds crew; downtown campus trustee; or jail industries.

Work Release

The Clark County Sheriff's Office operates a partial-confinement work release program from the jail work center. Individuals who qualify for this program reside at the JWC and continue to work at their current jobs, or in the case of state offenders, are assisted in finding a job for re-entry purposes (typically the last six months of their prison sentence).

Support

Jail Medical

The Sheriff's Office contracts with Correct Care Solutions (CCS) for inmate medical services. CCS provides medical care for those at the Clark County Jail, the Jail Work Center and the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center. CCS practices a multidisciplinary approach to care, the respectful and humane treatment of the inmate population, and provides medical, dental, mental and behavioral health services.

Cheryl Taylor was the site Health Services Administrator in 2014. Dr. Daniel Gorecki was the medical director. Rhonda Hansen-Boyle was the Director of Nursing.

During 2014 there were 44,640 in-house patient clinic visits, 36 hospital admissions with an average hospital stay of 8.8 days. 31 trips to the emergency room which equated to 2.6 trips a month. CCS also arranged and the transport unit facilitated 76 off site visits with specialty providers for an average of 6.3 transports a month. Medical and corrections deputies responded to 125 medical emergencies within the jail in 2014.

Contract mental health counsellors made 16,318 patient contacts, the psychiatric nurse practitioner

had 1,537 patient contacts, and the psychiatrist had 99 patient contacts. CCS's contract psychiatrist treated 99 patients or 8.3 patients a month which were referred by the psychiatric nurse practitioner. Mental health monitored 934 inmates who indicated they were thinking about suicide. Inmates who indicated they were suicidal spent an average of 3.1 days on suicide watch.

The contracted dental provider treated an average of 53.4 patients a month or 641 patients for the year.

Jail Transport

The jail transport unit is comprised of 13 corrections deputies and is supervised by Sergeant Ruth Anderson. The transport team is responsible for moving inmates for court appearances before the judges of the District and Superior Courts. In 2014 this unit transported 21,140 inmates to the appropriate court without an escape or major incident. Transport also works directly with the assigned courthouse deputies when managing court appearances that are high profile or raise the need for additional security.

The success of this unit is directly related to the coordinated efforts between the unit and the many judicial assistants who work directly for the judges. These deputies also staff the video arraignment services contracted to the Battleground Municipal Court for the cities of Battleground, Ridgefield and La Center Washington.

This unit also plays an instrumental role as a member partner of the cooperative mini chain system for the Northwest region. During this reporting period the transport unit moved 1,886 inmate's on the mini-chain system avoiding costly extradition expenses and saving taxpayer resources. Along with these duties the transport unit also works with Western State Mental Hospital to coordinate transports for competency or restoration services.

Reentry

The Clark County Jail Reentry Program opened its doors in February of 2014, and steadily increased in depth and breadth throughout the year. The program strives to promote public safety by helping to interrupt the cycle of recidivism. This is accomplished by connecting releasing inmates to community resources that can help with root-cause behaviors such as chemical dependency, unemployment, homelessness, and mental illness.

Truly a community program, the Jail Reentry Program benefits from the efforts and participation of over 40 community partners. A wide variety of classes and resources are available to program participants - from Alcoholics Anonymous to enrollment in Washington Apple Health. In 2014, nearly 700 hours of programming were offered, leveraging the outreach efforts of local organizations to serve the reentering population. 420 individual inmates were served by the program during this time. Additionally, countless staff hours were devoted to coordinating services for the special needs population that could not readily access the organized program.

A completely new element to the corrections mission in the Clark County Jail, a new, specialized unit was assembled. The initial team was comprised of Sergeant Randy Tangen, Deputy Barbara Schubach, and Deputy Alva Songer. Later in the year, Mike Delay, a Chemical Dependency Professional with Community Services Northwest was added under an existing Department of Community Services contract, adding unparalleled access to chemical dependency assessments

and treatment. Also during this time, the Sheriff's Office was recruiting for two masters-level Jail Discharge Planners who would ultimately be hired in early 2015.

The Reentry Program has firmly established itself as a positive and valuable part of the recovery community in Clark County. While the true benefits of this work may be best measured in decades or even generations, it's safe to say we're off to an outstanding start!

Classification

The classification unit is made up of one sergeant and four deputies. They evaluate and categorize inmates in a manner that will meet department and branch missions while managing inmates in a safe, secure, effective, and constitutionally-compliant manner.

The inmate classification process is a non-punitive management tool used for screening, evaluating, grouping, housing, and supervising inmates. This process includes evaluating an inmate's current and historical special needs, discipline, charges, behavior, and any other pertinent information in an objective manner. This unit is also responsible for inmate disciplinary board hearings involving major infractions of jail rules. Deputies within the Classification unit held 1119 major board hearings that directly affect jail safety and security. Classification Deputies also conducted 13,564 interviews during this reporting period making determinations that affect inmate, staff, and community safety. They also reviewed 7043 inmate placements in special housing units for detox, suicide, disciplinary and protective custody.

Jail Management System

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is in the process of procuring a new Jail Management System (JMS) for its jail operations. During 2014, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was crafted by the project manager and JMS team and published during the first quarter. The vetting process outlined in the RFP lasted the remainder of the year and contract negotiations started in December of 2014.

Food Service, Laundry, Cleaning & Maintenance

During 2014 the sheriff reorganized the chain-of-command as it related to the listed areas. As a result, Manager Joe Loftgren continues to manage the listed areas; and reports directly to a chief rather than a commander. The new dynamic is consistent with the established chain-of-command throughout the sheriff's office.

Security Response Team

The Clark County Jail maintains a Security Response Team (SRT) comprised of specially selected, trained, and equipped personnel. This team is utilized in situations when conventional detention center resources are unable to maintain or regain control, or when circumstances present the potential of posing such a high risk that the skills and equipment of the team are the most effective option available to the jail. The SRT is tasked with duties that may include; extracting uncooperative inmates from their cells, mass searches or disturbances in the jail, evacuations, high profile security, barricaded, trapped or suicidal inmates, riots, mass arrest, high risk/high profile transport and court proceedings, and hostages situations. SRT members are required to be contactable and available to respond at all times. They are also expected to maintain above average performance evaluations and fitness levels. The SRT is founded upon a team concept and is made up of highly motivated and experienced corrections deputies.

2014 Jail Statistics

Jail Population

Average Daily Population	761
Average Length of Stay	17.84
Avg Monthly Bookings	1,296
Avg Monthly Releases	1,300

Work Release Operations

Walk Away	0
Terminations	45
New Admissions	187

Transport

Inmates to Court	21,141
Mini Chain	1,886
Medical	95
Western State Hospital	121
Inmates to Video Arraignment	3,544

Inmate Discipline

Major Infractions	1,355
Minor Infractions	1,302
Top Three Major Infractions	Fighting Refusal or Delay Smoking

Medical Unit

Inmates Seen by Medical Staff	44,640
Inmates Seen by Mental Health	18,053

Staffing

Administration	6
Corrections Sergeants	18
Corrections Staff	134
Support Staff	4
Food Service	14
Laundry/Industry	4
Social Worker/Reentry	2
Medical Contract Positions	22.3

Food Service

Total Meals Served	1,416,966
Restricted Diets	444,832
Cost Per Meal	\$1.42

Classification

Interviews	13,564
Screen for Work Release	44
Made Trustee	584
Cell Changes	18,421

Jail Industry Hours

Total Offender Hours	123,593
Kitchen	100,943
Laundry	20,835
Grounds Crew	943
Outside	841
Other	31

Jail Operations

Escapes	0
Escape Attempts	TBD
Deaths	1
Suicide Attempts	8
Assaults on Staff	TBD
Officers Injured	TBD
Hostage Situation	0

Office Information

Professional Visits	20,185
Removed from Jail Access	109
Medical Bills Processed	623
Medical Bills Paid	200

