The releasing officer shall determine inmate identity before discharge or release.

The administration has employed and authorized civilian employees to perform releasing officer duties which is a violation of minimum jail standards.

A custody reassessment shall be conducted within 30 - 90 days of the Initial Custody Assessment and immediately upon any disciplinary action and/or change in legal status which would affect classification.

A documented classification review to determine the necessity for a complete reassessment shall be conducted every 30 - 90 days thereafter.

Inmate classification paperwork and staff interviews indicated that jail staff routinely exceed custody reassessments as required. One file exceeded the 90 day limit by 27 days.

The health services plan shall include procedures for the maintenance of a separate health record on each inmate. The record shall include a health screening procedure administered by health personnel or by a trained booking officer upon the admission of the inmate to the facility.

The administration has employed and authorized civilian employees to perform duties of health personnel or trained book in officers which is a violation of minimum jail standards.

(a) Each sheriff/operator shall develop and implement a mental disabilities/suicide prevention plan, in coordination with available medical and mental health officials, approved by the Commission by March 31, 1997. The plan shall address the following principles and procedures:

(1) Training. Provisions for staff training (including frequency and duration) on the procedures for recognition, supervision, documentation, and handling of inmates who are mentally disabled and/or potentially suicidal. Supplemental training should be provided to those staff members responsible for intake screening;

The administration was unable to provide training records to confirm the that detention officers received suicide prevention training in accordance with the approved operational plans.

Supervision. Provisions for adequate supervision of inmates who are mentally disabled and/or potentially suicidal and procedures for documenting supervision. The approved Bexar Co. operational plan for inmates of full suicide precautions states that inmates shall be observed every 15 minutes.

Observation logs indicated that jail staff exceeded the required face-to-face 15 minute observations on a continual basis in accordance with the jail's own approved operational plan.

Facilities shall have an established procedure for documented, face-to-face observation of all inmates by jailers no less than once every 60 minutes.

Observation logs indicated that jail staff exceeded the required face-to-face 60 minute observations on a continual basis by as few as 1 minute up to 126 minutes.
Personnel employed or appointed as jailers of county jails or personnel appointed, employed, or assigned to directly supervise jailers shall be licensed as per the requirements of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement under the provisions of Part 7 of this title. Personnel employed or appointed as jailers or personnel appointed, employed, or assigned to directly supervise jailers at facilities operated under vendor contract with a county or city shall be licensed as per the requirements of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement under the provisions of Part 7 of this title.

The administration has employed and authorized civilian employees to perform duties of licensed jailers. These civilian employees are not licensed as jailers by TCOLE as required.

Inmates shall be observed by a peace officer or a jailer licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement or bailiff when outside the security perimeter in court holding cells. The sheriff/operator shall have an established procedure for documented, face-to-face observation of all inmates no less than once every 30 minutes. One jailer, licensed peace officer, or bailiff shall be provided on each floor where 10 or more inmates are detained, with no less than one jailer, licensed peace officer, or bailiff per 48 inmates or increment thereof on each floor for direct inmate supervision. Where required, there shall be a two-way voice communication capability between inmates and jailers, licensed peace officers, or bailiffs at all times. Closed circuit television may be used, but not in lieu of the required personal observation.

The administration has employed and authorized civilian employees to perform duties of licensed jailers, bailiff or peace officers in the security perimeter of the court holding cells. These civilian employees are not licensed as jailers by TCOLE as required.

Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission, for inmate physical exercise and physical recreation. Documentation of physical exercise and physical recreation shall be maintained for Commission review. Each inmate shall be allowed one hour of supervised physical exercise or physical recreation at least three days per week.

The inspection team was unable to verify, through maintained documentation, that recreation is being offered to inmates at least 3 days per week for 1 hours as required by minimum jail standards.

Jennifer Shumake, TCJS Inspector

William Phariss, TCJS Inspector