

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
JAIL INSPECTION REPORT**

Facility Name: Dawson County Jail

Date: June 4, 2019

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	259	.156	<p>Power operated locks shall be motor, solenoid, or pneumatic type and provide electrical control unlocking, key unlocking by manual operation, and automatic mechanical deadlocking of doors upon closing.</p> <p>The jail staff were unable to remotely open the locking mechanisms to M/O cells #124, 126, 136, 153, 154, 156 and 157 from the control room as required by minimum jail standards.</p>
2	259	.134 & .137	<p>Multiple occupancy cells shall contain 2 to 8 bunks and not less than 40 square feet of clear floor space for the first bunk plus 18 square feet of clear floor space for each additional bunk. Separation cells shall be provided with one bunk, mirror, table, and seat separate from the bunk.</p> <p>During the walk-through, it was determined jail staff exceeding housing capacity of two (2) female living areas. At the time of inspection, there were two (2) inmates housed in a single occupancy separation cell and there were five (5) inmates housed in a 4-bed multiple occupancy cell. Two (2) inmates were forced to sleep on the floor.</p>
3	265	.13 (a)(c)	<p>(a) Each sheriff/operator shall investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner by using data made available from the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) operated by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs or similar service.</p> <p>(b) Each sheriff/ operator shall provide assistance to prisoners identified as veterans, identified through either self-report or the VRSS, in applying for federal benefits or compensation for which the prisoners may be eligible under a program administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Assistance includes, but not limited to, direct assistance by qualified claims counselor, issuance of a referral card, or similar assistance.</p> <p>(c) Each sheriff shall maintain a log of positive VRSS returns with identifying prisoner number and whether a referral card was issued to the identified veteran prior to his or her release. If a referral card was not issued, a reason shall be provided on the log.</p> <p>The administration was unable to provide the VRSS reporting logs dating back to August 8, 2018 nor could it be prove that each prisoner was entered into the VRSS system as required.</p>
4	283	.1 (3)(c)	<p>Disciplinary Due Process Requirements: provisions shall be made for at least twenty-four hours written notice to be given to the inmate of the claimed violation or charges against him/her and may be included for inmates to waive the right to a disciplinary hearing provided proper notification is given prior to the signing of the waiver.</p> <p>During the review of disciplinary reports, it was determined that the staff were initiating disciplinary sanctions prior to the completion of the 24 hour notice which was noted as technical assistance during the FY 2018 annual inspection.</p>



Shane Sowell, TCJS Inspector