

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE HARRIS COUNTY JAIL

March 8, 2023

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on February 13-17, 2023, detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Minimum Standards Violated:	Corrective Measure Required	Date Corrective Action Must Be Completed
259 .138(a)	<p>Holding Cells - One or more holding cells shall be provided to hold inmates pending intake, processing, release, or other reason for temporary holding. Inmates shall not be held for more than 48 hours.</p> <p>Inmates were in holding anywhere from 63 hours to 70 hours. Additionally, during the review of inmate files, seven (7) additional inmates were found to be in holding from 48.5 hours to 66 hours prior to housing</p>	<p>Upon receipt of this notice.</p>
273.2	<p>Health Services Plan - Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission, for inmate medical, mental, and dental services. The plan shall provide procedures for regularly scheduled sick calls.</p> <p>Inmates were not seen by medical within 48 hours, as required by facility operation plan.</p>	<p>Upon receipt of this notice.</p>
273.3	<p>Health Instructions: All medical instructions of designated physicians shall be followed.</p> <p>In December 2022 the Harris County Jail was placed in non-compliance for failing to follow a physician's orders and provide medication to an inmate as directed. During the Comprehensive Re-Inspection, this was determined to be continuing issue by the inspection team.</p>	<p>Upon receipt of this notice.</p>

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, M.D., Parker, Vice-Chair
Ross Reyes, Melissa

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock
Sheriff Raul "Pinky" Gonzales, Refugio
Patricia M. Anthony, Garland

Commissioner Ben Perry, Waco
Duane Lock, Southlake
Monica McBride, Alpine

275.1

Regular Observation by Corrections Officers - Every facility shall have the appropriate number of jailers at the facility 24 hours each day. 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 shall be performed at least every 30 minutes in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined.

60 minute observations of inmates were routinely exceeded by staff on a routine basis by 1 minute to 1 hour 13 minutes. Additionally, observation records for areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined were routinely exceeded by staff on a routine basis by 1 minute to 2 hours 9 minutes.

Upon receipt of this notice.

275.4

Staff - Inmates shall be supervised by an adequate number of jailers to comply with state law and this chapter. One jailer shall be provided on each floor of the facility where 10 or more inmates are housed, with no less than 1 jailer per 48 inmates or increment thereof on each floor for direct inmate supervision. This jailer shall provide documented visual inmate supervision not less than once every 60 minutes. Sufficient staff to include supervisors, jailers and other essential personnel as accepted by the Commission shall be provided to perform required functions.

Documentation sent to the lead inspector for supervision indicated that the Harris County staffing was sufficient. However, floor rosters reviewed during the walkthrough of the 3rd floor at 701 Baker verified staffing shortage on the day of inspection. It was determined that there are only 13 officers currently working the floor when 14 are needed. This is for a total population of 659 inmates. The 4th floor staffing was also reviewed, and it was noted that 13 officers were present when 15 officers were required to supervise 684 inmates.

Upon receipt of this notice.