



# Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

## Office of Detention Facilities

**Date:** October 3, 2022

Sheriff Dennis Stuart  
Washburn County Sheriff's Department  
421 US Hwy 63  
Shell Lake, WI 54871

**RE: 2022 Annual Inspection**

**Facility Name:** Washburn County Jail  
**Address:** 421 US Hwy 63  
Shell Lake, WI 54871

**Facility Type and Applicable Wisconsin Administrative Code:**

- ☐ Juvenile Detention Facility (Chapter DOC 346)
- ☐ Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (Chapter DOC 347)
- ☐ Huber Facility (Chapter DOC 348)
- ☐ Municipal Lockup Facility (Chapter DOC 349)
- ☒ Jail (Chapter DOC 350)

**Date of Inspection:** August 31, 2022    **Inspected By:** Brad Hoover

**Inspection Process:** The annual inspection of the facility was conducted pursuant to WI Statute 301.37(3). The inspection compared the facility and its operation to applicable state statutes and Department of Corrections administrative code. This inspection consisted of a tour of the facility to assess the safety, sanitation, adequacy, and fitness of the facility; dialogue with staff and inmates; and a review of facility records and documentation.

**Approved Capacity Details**

Maximum Rated Capacity	Population on the Day of Inspection	Is Facility Approved to Double Cell	Is Facility Approved to Hold Juveniles
30	21	No	No

## **Inspection Results:**

The following violations were noted during this year's inspection process:

- **Administrative Code DOC 350.06(6) *Physical Environment***  
On the day of inspection, inmates of mixed classification were housed in the same dormitories. This is a repeat violation from last year.
- **Administrative Code DOC 350.14(1) *Inmate Health Care***  
On the day of inspection, it was reported that the facility does not provide or secure necessary mental health treatment for inmates. This is a serious concern and should be corrected immediately.
- **Administrative Code DOC 350.17(10)(d)(e) *Suicide Prevention***  
The inspection material provided failed to show the name, date and time the supervisor was notified when an inmate was placed on a suicide watch.

## **Inspection Comments:**

As referenced in past inspections, the jail is old and antiquated, limiting the opportunity to provide programming and education, as well as meeting safety and security expectations. The facility lacks the proper space needed for booking in new inmates, providing proper classification, and housing individuals. The facility is so small it lacks the proper space to have the recently purchased body scanner in the jail. The body scanner is located downstairs in the garage, forcing staff to have to leave the jail and go downstairs to conduct a scan. This practice is concerning because the jail is already limited with staff supervision and leaving the jail floor is not an ideal correctional practice. Also, because of the limited housing options in the facility, inmates with mixed classification were housed together due to the lack of proper bed space. This is a repeat violation from last year. Another concern is that the facility has one receiving cell for the whole jail. The lack of receiving cells in the facility is a concern because it makes it very difficult for staff to have inmates change clothing when being processed into the jail. If the receiving cell is occupied, staff has the inmate walk through the secure perimeter of the jail to the multipurpose room and step into a closet to change over. If the multipurpose room is occupied, the inmate has to wait in a cellblock in street clothes. This practice is concerning as the inmate has not been properly searched and this could lead to contraband entering the facility and creating a serious security risk.

During the inspection, it was reported that professional visitors are brought into the secure perimeter of the jail to meet with inmates in the multipurpose room. This practice is a security and safety concern as it does not provide any physical barrier from the inmate. Another issue with the multipurpose room is that the shelving located there is not detention strength as it is made of wood and, if damaged, it could provide a dangerous weapon. The practice of using this room for professional visits also hinders any programs or services that may be scheduled at this time. It is recommended that the shelving be replaced with detention strength material and another area be considered that would provide adequate safety for professional visitors in the case an inmate becomes violent and/or assaultive.

Also, the medical room is very small, making it difficult for medical staff to provide treatment and examinations while also having adequate space for administrative duties and properly securing confidential medical records.

In addition to the above issues, the jail and the dispatch center are combined and centrally located within the jail. This makes it difficult to provide proper staff supervision with the added responsibilities when 911 calls come into the jail. This often takes staff away from jail duties and negatively affects overall safety and security. As referenced in past inspections, it is recommended that control center and dispatch be separated so staff can focus on their jail duties.

Again, the facility is over 30 years old and, since it opened, corrections has changed dramatically. There should be thought given to future needs of the facility when it comes to conditions of confinement, housing options for classification, programming, and efficiency.

I would like to thank Captain Nielsen and your staff for their cooperation during this inspection process. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Hoover", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Hoover, Inspector  
Office of Detention Facilities

Cc: Gretchen Nielsen, Captain  
Greg Bucholtz, ODF Director  
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