

To: Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission, Inc.
From: Lieutenant Cody Whiddon, Team Leader
Date: August 6, 2024
Re: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections
3228 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida, 33406.

Full Assessment Report
July 16th – 18th, 2024

A. Agency/Assessment Information:

Chief Executive Officer: Sheriff Ric L. Bradshaw
Jail Administrator: Colonel Alfonso Starling
Accreditation Manager: Lieutenant Willie Morris

Standards Manual Version: 4.21

Previous Accreditation Dates: July 1998, October 2000, October 2003, October 2006, October 2009

Excelsior Dates: September 2012, October 2015, October 2018, October 2021

Additional Accreditations: Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFLA), American Correctional Association (ACA), National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC), and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Assessment Team Recommendation: Excelsior Reaccreditation

Assessment Team

Team Leader Lt. Cody Whiddon
Clay County Sheriff's Office
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Assessor Adriane Head
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
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Assessor Katina Bouza
Collier County Sheriff's Office
Katina.bouza@colliersheriff.org

B. Compliance Tally:

Status	Mandatory Standards	Other-than-mandatory Standards	Total Standards
In compliance	91	29	120
In compliance (Comparative Compliance)	89	48	137
Not in compliance	0	0	0
Not applicable	2	1	3
Elected 10%	0	0	0
Waiver	0	0	0
Total:	182	78	260

Total Applicable Other-than-mandatory Standards	77
Maximum allowable number of Elected Exemptions	7

C. Agency Profile:

Palm Beach County was established as Florida's 47th county in 1909, after being split from Dade County. Palm Beach County encompasses over 2,383 square miles, with a year-round population of approximately 1.33 million.

Ric L. Bradshaw is the Sheriff of Palm Beach County. The Sheriff's Office currently operates two adult detention facilities, an in-house arrest program, and a video visitation center.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections has been involved in the accreditation process since 1984. Both facilities remain accredited through the American Corrections Association (ACA), with their last audit in October of 2023. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office obtained accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) with compliance in all requirements as of April of 2021. Detention facilities achieved re-accreditation from the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) with 100% compliance in October of 2021, also receiving the Excelsior Award for achieving nine successful consecutive re-accreditations.

The Department of Corrections is divided into two bureaus: Operations and Security. The Security Bureau Commander is Major Darlyn Morris. The Operations Bureau Commander is Major Michael DeVoter. The Sheriff employs approximately 3,955 corrections, law enforcement, and civilian personnel, which includes 1,322 full time equivalent employees. There are 698 sworn corrections personnel (majors, captains, lieutenants, sergeants, inspectors and deputies).

D. Assessment Summary:

On Tuesday July 16, 2024, the assessment team was picked up from the hotel and transported to the facility. The assessment team began with an entrance interview attended by:

Captain Meredith Scott – Standards & Staff Development
Major Darlyn Morris – Corrections Security Bureau
Lieutenant Willie Morris – Standards & Staff Development
Captain Ronald Wilson – Support Services
Captain William Kinsey – West Detention Center
Captain Eliecer Ramos – West Detention Center
Captain Kimberly Kinsey – Inmate Management
Lieutenant Tenicia Poitier – Support Services
Section Manager Tiffany Wagner – Standards & Staff Development
Procedural Officer Mary Wright – Standards & Staff Development
Major Michael Devoter – Corrections Operations Bureau
Section Manager Roderick White – Contracts Compliance
Section Manager Sallyann Josef – Contracts Compliance
Sergeant Michael Altemari – Standards & Staff Development
Division Manager Stephanie Peskowitz – Contract Compliance
Sergeant Charlene Forde – Standards & Staff Development
Medical Inspector Joy Ozelie – Standards & Staff Development
Corrections Support Personnel Charlene Crayton – Standards & Staff Development
Administrative Secretary Jaime Russo – Standards & Staff Development
Division Manager Juna Thomas – Inmate Records
Mental Health Director Ruth Marcellino – Wellpath
Lieutenant Barrington Buckle – Inmate Management
Lieutenant LeGerard Imbert – Court Security
Director Dena Paquette – Trinity
Sergeant Shadana Iliopoulos – Main Detention Center
RDO Kate Hunt – Wellpath
Director of Nursing Lisa Poulos – Wellpath
Regional Operations Specialist Melanie Wells – Wellpath
Lieutenant Lawanda Freeman – Main Detention Center
Sergeant Manuel Castillo – Standards & Staff Development
Contracts Manager Faryl Thomas – Contract Compliance
Captain Robert Tutko – Court Security
Lieutenant Natasha Layne – Main Detention Center
Lieutenant Bronislaw Nadolna – Main Detention Center
Medical Director Dr. Morcos – Wellpath

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Unit Manager David Eberhart – Contract Compliance
Lieutenant William McClain – West Detention Center
Unit Manager Tara Price – Contract Compliance
Unit Manager Robert Edgar – Inmate Records
Lieutenant Tangie Burroughs – West Detention Center

Unit Manager Lynnette Sanchez – Inmate Records
Unit Manager Shahzia Jackson – Contract Compliance
Supervisor Melissa Lewis – Inmate Records
Sergeant Shanetta Davis – Main Detention Center
Supervisor Ben Diaz – Inmate Records
Supervisor Gloria Hernandez-Moreno
Sergeant Avenier Pierre – Main Detention Center
Lieutenant Nicole Simpson – Main Detention Center
Sergeant Tanisha Rayford – Main Detention Center
Sergeant Endora Thurmond – Main Detention Center
Sergeant Reniery Mondragon – Main Detention Center
Sergeant Ronnie DeJesus – Main Detention Center
Sergeant Stephan Sales – Main Detention Center

After the entrance interview the assessment team began file review. The agency utilized comparative compliance to the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation assessment report and the American Correctional Association assessment report. The team conducted observations and interviews at the Main Detention Center Tuesday afternoon.

Team Leader Whiddon interviewed Deputy Mavin Marty regarding key control. Deputy Marty explained the key control process and how keys are distributed to deputies. Team Leader Whiddon also observed the off-site emergency keys for both the Main and West units.

Team Leader Whiddon interviewed Deputy Nathaniel Webb who explained how and why inmates are locked down and how often they are checked. Deputy Webb explained housing duties and the processes for visitation, recreation, and meal service. Some housing areas have classrooms attached to housing, affording inmates accessibility to programs such as Alcoholic Anonymous, the law library, and education services. The inmates were very informative about programs in which they can participate.

The assessment team observed all the walls, floors, and cells were clean in both facilities. The chemical closets were neatly organized and well-maintained throughout both facilities.

Team Leader Whiddon interviewed Sergeant Jeremias Torres and Sergeant Rechina Castro in the training unit. Both were able to explain the agency training process for corrections. They went over all the annual training requirements and the initial requirements for new members. The training unit is a very busy area but everyone in this area was knowledgeable with training. Team Leader Whiddon was able to observe new corrections members go through scenario-based training and what was required of them before being released to a Field Training Officer.

Correctional Support Personnel Leslie Dennard explained how she monitors deputies in the housing areas and what responsibilities she has for documentation of inmates going to and from the cell. She was able to explain the emergency evacuation procedures and for the facility and her role in an emergency.

Assessor Bouza observed Admissions, Classification, and Release at both facilities. All necessary paperwork and classification processes were found to be in order. Both male and female deputies were on duty in the booking areas. Deputy Telecia Dawson walked Assessor Bouza through the Classification process. Deputies Kennibah Malone and Rodney McKay were very knowledgeable in the reclassification and disciplinary hearing processes. Inmates are re-classified every 30-days or sooner, if necessary.

Corporal John Hoffman walked Assessor Bouza through the entire intake and release process at both facilities. Corporal Hoffman was very professional and was very knowledgeable of the booking process. Staff was asked questions about same gender strip searches and based on their policy and practice, were found to be in compliance. Inmates are provided property receipts for the property accepted into the facility, are given a copy of the inmate rules and are given access to use the telephone in Booking. Assessor Bouza confirmed records contained required information and were kept confidential from other inmates. Corporal Hoffman explained the process for DNA collection for qualifying offenders. Assessor Bouza was able to observe the fingerprinting and photographic systems.

Assessor Bouza toured the Inmate Property areas in both facilities. The Property Rooms were found to be in proper order. Supervisor Courtney Pendergrass was very knowledgeable in the handling of inmates' property. She was very well versed on what to do if an item is left behind or is found to be missing at the time of an inmate's release. Supervisor Pendergrass was aware of annual and unannounced inspections. She explained the process for the release of an inmate's property to the inmate, upon their request.

Assessor Bouza found the inmate housing areas to be tidy and in good order. All deputies encountered had control of the pods and were able to answer all of Assessor Bouza's questions. Many inmates were interviewed regarding contraband, hygiene and grooming, inmate communication, and inmate rules and regulations. Based on the inmates' answers, it is evident that deputies not only follow policies, but practice policy as well.

Mattresses, pillows, sheets, and blankets were observed in applicable housing units. Deputies and inmates were interviewed about linens and clothing and based on their responses, were determined to be in compliance with the standards. Throughout the tour of the facility, Assessor Bouza observed inmates cleaning the floors and emptying nearby garbage cans.

Assessor Bouza toured the juvenile housing where she interviewed several inmates. All necessary programs, recreation, and housing requirements are provided per interviews. Assessor Bouza also observed deputies conducting watches not to exceed 10 minutes, per standard.

Throughout the facilities, Assessor Bouza confirmed male and female inmates were housed separately and out of sight and sound of one another. Housing areas were also observed to house dangerous felons from misdemeanants. Assessor Bouza interviewed

multiple deputies in each of the visited housing areas who all confirmed checks do not exceed 30-minutes for general population inmates.

Assessor Bouza observed sinks, showers, and drinking fountains at each of the visited housing areas and all were observed to be in working order and were inspected for cleanliness with no issues noted. Various inmates were interviewed regarding access to reading and writing materials. All inmates expressed having equal access to privileges and programs, with the exception of those classified to be in disciplinary confinement. All inmates interviewed were aware of steps to be taken to file a grievance.

Assessor Bouza interviewed several inmates in Disciplinary Confinement about their disciplinary hearing. All provided information on having received written notice of the hearing within 24-hours of the incident. They also expressed that they had the ability to call witnesses and were given copies of the written decision on the hearing outcome, to include discipline instituted.

Assessor Bouza interviewed Deputy Ryan Gillis, Deputy Shamarcus Bryant, Deputy Alex Thompson, and Sergeant Craig Knowles-Hillis regarding the Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT), to include the process for participation and selection. All deputies interviewed were aware of their training requirements and specialized equipment. The CERT's equipment room was toured, and inventory logs were checked for accuracy. The equipment was maintained in an orderly fashion.

Assessor Bouza observed general evacuation routes and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) books throughout the facilities. Deputies interviewed were able to articulate key details to include proper notifications in the event of an evacuation emergency.

Assessor Bouza interviewed various Unit Managers in Programs, Chaplain Altermease Kendrick, and Teacher Chloe Zook about the various programs utilized in their facilities. Assessor Bouza also interviewed female inmates who were in the Medical Assisted and Peer Support Treatment Programs (MAP) who expressed their appreciation for these programs and how these programs have changed their outlooks on life. All Program Unit employees were very knowledgeable and excited about the different programs offered and the differences being made in the inmates' lives.

Assessor Bouza met with Section Manager Wagner in the supplies warehouse. Manager Wagner was very organized. Items were correctly labeled, and the SDSs were available in the warehouse and throughout the facility in electronic and paper form.

Assessor Bouza interviewed Deputy Marty who oversees Key Control at both facilities. Deputy Marty was very well organized and knowledgeable in the key control area. Assessor Bouza conducted several random key checks, and all were found to match the key log.

Assessor Bouza toured the laundry areas in both facilities. Unit Manager David Eberhart proudly displayed their laundry system and their processes. Assessor Bouza interviewed a few inmate workers who were aware of their responsibilities in the laundry room.

The kitchen was well organized and clean. Kitchen staff was very knowledgeable in food service in both facilities.

Assessor Head interviewed medical staff who confirmed compliance with standards for sick call, pregnant female care, and pharmacy procedures. Medical was well organized and clean with all areas secure.

Assessor Head interviewed several inmates who were on work assignments throughout both facilities. The inmates stated they are not allowed to work more than 10-hours a day. Assessor Head observed outside worker dorms and areas of work to ensure they had all the proper equipment and clothing.

The assessment team was impressed with both facilities, with the knowledge of the deputies, and the cleanliness and organization. The assessment team also visited the off-site visitation center for family members who can schedule a time to come and use the video visitation center.

Team Leader Whiddon interviewed Lieutenant Gerard Imbert and Sergeant Johnnie Bryant on courthouse holding procedures. They walked Team Leader Whiddon through the daily court process and observed the courthouse holding areas for compliance.

The exit interview was conducted Thursday, July 18, 2024, with staff attending in person and virtually. The following members were in attendance:

Major Michael Devoter – Corrections Operations Bureau
Major Darlyn Morris – Corrections Security Bureau
Sergeant Michael Altemari – Standards & Staff Development
Medical Inspector Joy Ozelie – Standards & Staff Development
Sergeant Charlene Forde – Standards & Staff Development
Section Manager Sallyann Josef – Contracts Compliance
Director Dena Paquette – Trinity
Section Manager Tiffany Wagner – Standards & Staff Development
Supervisor Maribel Williams
Captain Kimberly Kinsey – Inmate Management
Captain Ronald Wilson – Support Services
Captain Eliecer Ramos – West Detention Center
Captain Robert Tutko – Court Security
Division Manager Stephanie Peskowitz – Contract Compliance
Captain William Pinto – Main Detention Center
Division Manager Juna Thomas – Inmate Records
Procedural Officer Mary Wright – Standards & Staff Development
Lieutenant Willie Morris – Standards & Staff Development
Captain Meredith Scott – Standards & Staff Development
Sergeant Manuel Castillo – Standards & Staff Development
Lieutenant Camay Curry – Inmate Management
Lieutenant Tenicia Poitier – Support Services
Lieutenant Bronislaw Nadolna – Main Detention Center
Mental Health Director Ruth Marcellino – Wellpath

Sergeant Berthony Lorfilis
Lieutenant Barrington Buckle – Inmate Management
Lieutenant LeGerard Imbert – Court Security
Medical Director Dr. Morcos – Wellpath
Director of Nursing Lisa Poulos – Wellpath
Section Manager Roderick White – Contracts Compliance
Sergeant Stephen Sales – Main Detention Center
Contracts Manager Faryl Thomas – Contract Compliance
Unit Manager Lynnette Sanchez – Inmate Records
Lieutenant Natasha Layne – Main Detention Center
Captain William Kinsey – West Detention Center

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Lieutenant William Caswell – West Detention Center
Lieutenant Robbie Castillo – West Detention Center
Sergeant Michael Barmore – West Detention Center
Supervisor Courtney Pendergrass – Inmate Records
Unit Manager Robert Edgar – Inmate Records
Sergeant Shanetta Davis – Main Detention Center
Lieutenant William McClain – West Detention Center
Unit Manager David Eberhart – Contract Compliance
Executive Secretary Connie Smith – Corrections Security Bureau
Supervisor Melissa Lewis – Inmate Records
Supervisor Benjamin Diaz – Inmate Records
Unit Manager Tamara Starks – Contract Compliance
Chaplain Altermease Kendrick – Contract Compliance
Administrative Secretary Lisa Torres – Court Security
Unit Manager Shahzia Jackson – Contract Compliance

- E. Standards Noncompliance Discussion:** None
- F. Corrective Action Discussion:** None
- G. Standards Elected for Exemption:** None
- H. Standards Verified by the Team as Waiver Applicable:** None
- I. Standards Verified by the Team as Not Applicable to the Agency:**
- | | | |
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| 13.04M | 16.02 | 23.02M |
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- J. Standards with a Status Changed by Assessors:** None
- K. Public Information Activities:** None

L. Exemplary Policies/Projects/Procedures:

Paw and Stripes South Dog Vocational Program

Corrections Contract Compliance (Reentry unit), Law Enforcement Therapy Dog unit, and Big Dog Ranch Rescue collaborate to implement a six-to-eight-week vocational training certification program (length based on the dog's needs). The program runs three to four days per week, with six to eight hours of daily work. A "rolling start" for inmates is available and does not hinder the training of the inmates or dogs. The program teaches inmates the necessary skills to provide AKC training to shelter dogs, which enables them to certify with the CGCA AKC title and become Law Enforcement Therapy Dogs. Additionally, there is a positive impact on the inmates, aiding them to grow social skills and a sense of self-gain to assist them in integrating back into society. The program teaches the inmates marketable skills that make them more employable and reduces recidivism.

M. Summary and Recommendation:

The assessment team conducted a thorough review of files and interviews from various staff to verify compliance. The staff members overseeing the various units were proud of their team and operations exhibiting knowledge and professionalism throughout both facilities. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections maintains a high-level professionalism and knowledge about their agency. Both facilities are well maintained, and the team could tell that accreditation is a way of life.

The assessment team unanimously recommends the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections for reaccreditation with excelsior status.

Submitted by Team Leader Lt. Cody Whiddon