

Office of the Sheriff

LOB #221:

INMATE SERVICES

Purpose

Inmate Services encompass all services and essential needs for the safety and well-being of the inmate population. The law mandates that the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office provide a number of services to inmates. These services include, but are not limited to, the following: food, education and religious-based programs, and health care. The following laws govern these mandated services: Virginia Code §§ 53.1-68-53.1-133, Department of Corrections, Minimum Standards for Jails and Lockups; Virginia Code § 53.1-5, Department of Corrections, Minimum Standards for Jails and Lockups; Part IV Articles 2 and 3, United States Constitution, Amendments 1 and 14; Virginia Code § 53.1-127.1, Department of Corrections, Minimum Standards for Jails and Lockups; Article 6, sections 4.23-4.28; JLARC. The Sheriff's Office follows all established rules and guidelines for accepted practices for Sheriffs in jurisdictions with local jails and lockups.

In addition, these services are governed by accrediting agencies which include the American Correctional Association, National Commission on Correctional Healthcare, and Virginia Department of Corrections.

Description

Inmate Services encompass all services and essential needs for the safety and well-being of the inmate population. These responsibilities include providing basic custodial services for inmates, including clothing and laundry services, bedding, communication services, facility cleaning and maintenance, personal hygiene articles, commissary services, recreation services, medical services, adult learning and rehabilitation programs, food services, and management of inmate funds. Special programs are provided to serve two basic purposes. The first purpose is to afford inmates access to certain constitutional rights (i.e., freedom to practice their religion as guaranteed in the First Amendment and access to the court as guaranteed in the Fourteenth Amendment). The second purpose entails rehabilitation and management. Inmates are given an opportunity to better themselves through such programs as Adult Basic Education (including English as a second Language and GED), Religion, Substance Abuse Education, Employability Skills and others. These programs not only afford inmates an opportunity for self-enhancement, they also provide avenues to combat the frustration of incarceration.

The medical services include health, medical, and dental care to incarcerated individuals who may or may not be residents of Fairfax County. Care ranges from simple first aid to major cancer/HIV therapy to surgeries. Some costs are recouped by means of inmate co-pays for healthcare services. Medical staff administers the medical and dental contracts, medical emergency service needs, and pharmacy contracts. The Sheriff's Office also provides medical screenings and checkups as well as 24/7 coverage within the ADC and AIB in the event of an emergency medical incident.

Education, rehabilitation and special services are provided directly by the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, Fairfax County Adult Education, Opportunities Alternatives and Resources (OAR), civilian staff members of the Sheriff's Office, 300+ volunteers and other Fairfax County agencies, all under the supervision of sworn deputy sheriffs and a volunteer coordinator. The hours of operation for these programs are Monday through Sunday from 9:15 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The sworn staff hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and as needed for special program events.

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Inmate recreation services are provided directly by sworn staff of the Sheriff's Office. Every inmate who is eligible for recreation is given the opportunity to attend. Recreation scheduling is done in a manner where individuals attend with others in the same custody levels (i.e., maximum, medium and minimum security inmates). Males and females and special segregation inmates do not attend recreation together. Hours of operation of the recreation services in the Adult Detention Center are from 4:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days per week. Meals, laundry, housekeeping, and janitorial services for the jail are provided by the volunteer inmate workforce under the direction of sworn deputy staff or food service contractors. The Inmate Workforce is supervised and trained by staff.

Health care services are provided by a physician, a dentist, a pharmacist, an optometrist, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses (licensed by the State of Virginia). Care is also provided by various specialists and hospitals in Northern Virginia. Services are offered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, inclusive of holidays.

Benefits

The majority of services provided to the inmates as part of this line of business (i.e., medical care, food, clothing, educational/religious-based programs, etc.) are mandated. Taking care of the basic custodial needs of the inmate population is required by the Sheriff's Office. Other services, such as additional program and resource opportunities, are offered as a means to increase the skill set of inmates so they can seek employment and become more productive and self-sufficient members of society.

Mandates

While there are some programs within the Inmate Services line of business that are not mandated (i.e., several programs offered for skills development), these are provided at no cost to the Sheriff's Office. The Code of Virginia and the U.S. Constitution, as defined in the "Purpose" section of this LOB, mandate all of the budgeted services provided. In addition, these services are governed by accrediting agencies which include the American Correctional Association, National Commission on Correctional Healthcare, and Virginia Department of Corrections.

Trends and Challenges

The costs associated with Inmate Services are directly related to the inmate population. The Sheriff's Office has seen a decrease in the overall population from 1228 in FY 2014 to 1108 in FY 2015. While impossible to predict, the reduction in the number of inmates has produced a relative reduction in the costs associated with these inmates.

In FY 2014, nearly 1.5 million meals were served to the inmate population. In FY 2015, that number was reduced to 1,257,902. Health care contacts with inmates were also down by 17,000 for the same time period.

Some of the key variables in the inmate services line of business are not predictable. Population generates much of the costs for this section, but there is no way to predict which way the trend will go. Medical costs are not necessarily in proportion to the size of the ADC population. Serious illnesses – such as HIV, AIDS, kidney failure and cancer – are very expensive to treat. The number of inmates in need of such expensive treatments cannot be predicted.

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While the overall costs for services decreased in relation to the inmate population, the number of classes offered and the number of inmates attending these classes increased. The increases reflect a renewed commitment by the Sheriff's Office to inmate programming. Self-help and skills development programs increased from 86 in FY 2014 to 102 in FY 2015. The number of inmates receiving GED and certificates from development programs more than doubled during the same timeframe. This increase was partly due to a change in business style, i.e., offering certificates for program completions that were not offered previously. However, the increase was also due in large part to a change in efficiencies, allowing more classes to be offered and leaving fewer inmates on the waiting lists. It is important to note that there are no fees charged to inmates in the ADC for program participation. Program costs are fully supported by Commissary fees that are paid by inmates.

As part of the Public Safety Staffing Plan, the Sheriff's Office has requested a General Building Maintenance Worker I position to support agency maintenance staff and the Facilities Maintenance Department staff (FMD) who work closely together. The Adult Detention Center encompasses more than 548,000 square feet, and the demand for painting and general upkeep is continuous

Resources

| Category | FY 2014 Actual | FY 2015 Actual | FY 2016 Adopted |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| LOB #221: Inmate Services | | | |
| FUNDING | | | |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | | | |
| Compensation | \$6,115,703 | \$6,173,862 | \$6,491,123 |
| Operating Expenses | 3,155,044 | 3,039,192 | 3,329,529 |
| Total Expenditures | \$9,270,747 | \$9,213,054 | \$9,820,652 |
| General Fund Revenue | \$1,750,763 | \$1,663,093 | \$1,766,580 |
| Net Cost/(Savings) to General Fund | \$7,519,984 | \$7,549,961 | \$8,054,072 |
| POSITIONS | | | |
| Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) | | | |
| <u>Positions:</u> | | | |
| Regular | 72 / 71.5 | 72 / 71.5 | 72 / 71.5 |
| Total Positions | 72 / 71.5 | 72 / 71.5 | 72 / 71.5 |

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Metrics

| Metric Indicator | FY 2013 Actual | FY 2014 Actual | FY 2015 Actual | FY 2016 Estimate | FY 2017 Estimate |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Annual meals served | 1,444,432 | 1,425,812 | 1,257,902 | 1,297,526 | 1,337,230 |
| Health care contacts with inmates | 692,710 | 685,000 | 668,000 | 680,000 | 680,000 |
| Compliance rate with standards of the American Corrections Association | 97.5% | 97.5% | 97.5% | 97.5% | 97.5% |
| Inmate custodian positions | 132 | 137 | 136 | 137 | 137 |
| Yearly total times inmates were scheduled to attend self-help and skills development programs | 48,953 | 47,888 | 41,149 | 42,445 | 43,744 |

Inmate Services continued to provide for mandated services to the inmate population. For FY 2015, several performance measures saw a significant decrease from prior fiscal years, which were directly related to the decline in the inmate population. Given that the decrease was proportional, it was clear that services were still being offered and provided at a rate that met and/or exceeded expectations.

Throughout the year, medical services were provided at the rate of 668,000 health care contacts with the inmates. This number was lower than expected due to the reduction in the inmate population.

While the inmate population continued to decline, program opportunities increased for FY 2015. The provision of educational and religious-based programs continued to be a priority for the Sheriff's Office. In addition to these mandated services, the Sheriff's Office held a resource fair to connect inmates with the local resources they will need upon release, including housing, jobs, health care, higher education, addiction treatment, mental health services, support groups and any benefits to which they are entitled. The goal is to facilitate their successful re-entry into the community. This initiative is aligned with the Virginia Adult Re-entry Initiative (VARI), which has the full support of the Governor's Office. The Sheriff's Office conducted a review of the successful resource fair, which guided improvements and expansion for a second resource fair. The number of self-help and skills development programs increased from 86 in FY 2014 to 102 in FY 2015, indicating the agency's commitment to providing resources to the inmate population. In addition, inmates receiving GED and certificates from education and development programs nearly doubled from 845 in FY 2014 to 1670 in FY 2015. This increase was partly due to a change in business style (i.e., offering certificates for the completion of programs that were not offered previously). However, it was also due in large part to a change in efficiencies that allowed more classes to be offered and fewer inmates to remain on the waiting lists. The Sheriff's Office will continue its commitment to bettering the inmate population through its inmate services opportunities with the goal of improving the chances that inmates will become independent, productive members of the community post incarceration.