

Joint Committee on Corrections

Information for Legislative Institutional Visits

Facility Name: Missouri Eastern Correctional Center			
Custody Level	Medium/Minimum	Warden	Jennifer Sachse
Total Acreage	250	Address	18701 Old Highway 66
Acreage w/in Perimeter	40		Pacific, MO 63069
Square Footage	247884	Telephone:	636.257.3322
Year Opened	1981	Fax:	636.257.5296
Operational Capacity/Count (as of December 20, 2013)	1100/1083		
General Population Beds (capacity and count as of December 20, 2013)	1024/986	Deputy Warden	Michael Layden
Segregation Beds (capacity and count as of December 20, 2013)	100/92	Deputy Warden	Brenda Short
Treatment Beds (capacity and count as of December 20, 2013)	0	Asst. Warden	George Hayes
Work Cadre Beds (capacity and count as of December 20, 2013)	0	Asst. Warden	
Diagnostic Beds (capacity and count as of December 20, 2013)	0	Major	Alan Ham
Protective Custody Beds (capacity and count as of December 20, 2013)	0		

1. Capital Improvement Needs:

- a. How would you rate the overall condition of the physical plant of the institution?
 - Fair
- b. What capital improvement projects do you foresee at this facility over the next six years?
 - Due to continuing budget cuts, we are unable to project if there will be any capital improvements in the next six years.
- c. How critical do you believe those projects are to the long-term sustainability of this facility?
 - The capital improvements needed are the replacement of the roofs on our Administration, Recreation and Programs buildings, replacement of the food service floor, and the replacement of our perimeter road and parking lot. As well, all original boilers, chillers and generators should be replaced due to their ages, unreliability and cost to maintain. The completion of these projects is crucial, as failing to do so will create damage elsewhere. For example, water leaking from the roof has created damage inside the buildings, and deterioration of our perimeter road causes vehicle damage.

2. Staffing:

- a. Do you have any critical staff shortages?
 - No.
- b. What is your average vacancy rate for all staff and for custody staff only?
 - All staff = 3 per month, Custody staff = 4 per month.
- c. Does staff accrual or usage of comp-time by staff effect your management of the institution?
 - Due to limited funding for comp time payouts, we must closely monitor and manage all comp time that is earned. It is a very tedious and time-consuming task for supervisors.
- d. What is the process for assigning overtime to staff?
 - First we request volunteers, then, if necessary, we select a name from the overtime list.
- e. Approximately what percentage of the comp-time accrued at this institution does staff utilize as time off and what percentage is paid-off?
 - Approximately 75% is used, 25% paid out.
- f. Is staff able to utilize accrued comp-time when they choose?
 - Yes, at times.

3. Education Services:

- a. How many (and %) of inmate students at this institution are currently enrolled in school?
 - Students enrolled: 354 enrolled, E2-5 at MECC - 483 73% (total), Seats available: 360 98% occupancy
- b. How many (and %) of inmate students earn their GED each year in this institution?
 - GED results: 50 passed GED, 61 tested, 82% pass rate
- c. What are some of the problems faced by offenders who enroll in education programs?
 - Problems faced by students: Motivation is the largest hinderance to students. Students that are motivated move through the program and achieve progress toward the High School Equivalency certificate. Students that are not motivated tend to take longer.

4. Substance Abuse Services:

- a. What substance abuse treatment or education programs does this institution have?
 - Living in Balance is a 60 hour, 24 session *educational* program that focuses on the effects drug involvement has behaviorally and cognitively on lives and the changes needed to become competent productive citizens in society upon release.
- b. How many beds are allocated to those programs?
 - 0
- c. How many offenders do those programs serve each year?
 - 211
- d. What percent of offenders successfully complete those programs?
 - 84.2%
- e. What, in you opinion, is the biggest challenge to running a treatment program in a prison setting?
 - Offenders being allowed to drop out without consequences. Not offering an evening program for the offenders on outside clearance or involved in other day time classes. Offenders needing to leave class to go to property issue, case manager meetings, canteen pick-up or dog training. Offenders have a difficult time accessing me in times of crisis or when they need counseling services. Office is a part of the classroom so when doing one-on-one counseling it interrupts class or class disrupts discussion/lack of confidentiality. General staff lack understanding of addiction and the issues that surround it.

5. Vocational Programs:

- a. What types of vocational education programs are offered at this institution?
 - Presently we offer "Professional Landscaping and Gardening".
- b. How many offenders (and %) participate in these programs each year?
 - We anticipate 3 classes per year, 15 students per class for a total of 45 students per year.
- c. Do the programs lead to the award of a certificate?
 - Yes, a Department of Labor certificate will be earned by the graduates.
- d. Do you offer any training related to computer skills?
 - Not yet, but in the future we hope to offer "Web Design".

6. Missouri Vocational Enterprises: MECC does not currently manufacture any products

7. Medical Health Services:

- a. Is the facility accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care?
 - Yes.
- b. How many offenders are seen in chronic care clinics?
 - This varies as offenders are constantly being transferred in/out and released. There are 700 clinic spots; some offenders are in multiple clinics.
- c. What are some examples of common medical conditions seen in the medical unit?
 - HTN, high cholesterol, asthma, chronic pain, diabetes, hay fever, skin problems, etc.
- d. What are you doing to provide health education to offenders?
 - Offenders receive education during each visit whether it's for chronic care or a regular sick call visit. We also hold an annual health fair and have handouts available all the time in the medical unit.
- e. Have you had any cases of active Tuberculosis in this facility in the past year? If so, how did you respond?
 - No.
- f. Is the aging of the population effecting health care in prisons as it is effecting health care every where else? If yes, please explain
 - There has been an increase in the number of chronic care clinics but it seems to be on more of a steady incline but can also vary with how often we release and transfer offenders

8. Mental Health Services:

- a. How do offenders go about obtaining mental health treatment services?
 - If the offender is in Chronic Care Clinic they will be automatically seen by MH staff. Otherwise, any offender can send in a Medical Services Request form to be seen and or custody/caseworkers/Medical staff can refer offenders to MH.
- b. How many successful suicides (and %) occurred here in the past year and what is being done to prevent suicides?
 - No suicides in 2013.
- c. Approximately how many (and %) of the offenders in this institution are taking psychotropic medications?
 - 206/19%
- d. How many offenders in this facility are chronically or seriously mentally ill and what is being done for them?
 - 231 offenders are on the Chronic MH caseload at this time. They are seen once per month initially by the MH-RN and or monthly by the MH-RN depending on type of medications prescribed; monthly by a licensed counselor and at least every 90 days by a Psychiatrist/MD.

9. What is your greatest challenge in managing this institution?

The greatest challenges are the turnover of line staff to higher paying jobs, and maintaining and ensuring repairs of a 30 year old facility with less money each year.

10. What is your greatest asset to assist you in managing this institution?

Tenured, dedicated staff.

11. What is the condition of the facilities' vehicle fleet? (mileage, old vehicles etc?)

Poor. We have numerous vehicles with over 130,000 miles, resulting in costly repairs. These are not cost-effective on vehicles with excessive mileage.

12. Assess the morale of your custody staff; high, medium, or low and please provide detailed explanation. (Please have the Major answer)

For the most part morale is medium, with officers feeling that there is inadequate communication between custody supervisors and themselves. Staff members have fully acclimated to institutional changes such as controlled movement and custody levels; with few exceptions, they are in full support of them. An issue that continues to drag morale down to low is salary.

13. Caseworkers:

A. How many caseworkers are assigned to this institution?

- 16

B. Do you currently have any caseworker vacancies?

- No.

C. Do the caseworkers accumulate comp-time?

- No.

D. Do the caseworkers at this institution work alternative schedules?

- Yes

E. How do inmates gain access to meet with caseworkers?

- Scheduled office hours, Housing Unit tours and through letters, Wing Representative. Meetings.

F. Average caseload size per caseworker? 94

- # of disciplinary hearings per month? 90
- # of IRR's and grievances per month? 10
- # of transfers written per month? 20-30
- # of re-classification analysis (RCA's) per month? 35

G. Are there any services that you believe caseworkers should be providing, but are not providing?

- No.

H. If so, what are the barriers that prevent caseworkers from delivering these services? n/a

I. What type of inmate programs/classes are the caseworkers at this institution involved in?

- Inside Out Dad, Anger Management, Pathway To Change, Impact of Crime on Victims, Beat The Street, 4H for life, Alternative to Violence, Puppies for Parole.

J. What other duties are assigned to caseworkers at this institution?

- Birth certificates, social security applications, facilitate in-service training, Medicaid, state identification cards, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, vocational training application, case management meetings, mentor, assist with home plans, assist legal issues, access to employment information, evidence-based inquiries, Missouri Department of Transportation assessment and payroll, outside clearance applications, visiting applications, Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System, job assignments, Adult Internal Classification System data entry, Transitional Assistance Program, administrative segregation hearings, grievances, restorative justice, green checks/account issues, assist with property for administrative segregation placement and Acting Functional Unit Manager capacity, investigations, housing unit inspections, institutional inspections, institutional tours, interview boards, etc.

14. Institutional Probation and Parole officers:

- A. How many parole officers are assigned to this institution?
 - 6
- B. Do you currently have any staff shortages?
 - yes one parole officer - doing interviews on 1/3/14
- C. Do the parole officers accumulate comp-time?
 - rarely
- D. Do the parole officers at this institution flex their time, work alternative schedules?
 - yes
- E. How do inmates gain access to meet with parole officers?
 - Open office hours or notes
- F. Average caseload size per parole officer?
 - 60-120 this year - seem to be less with new classification
 - # of pre-parole hearing reports per month? 8-20 seem to be more with new classification
 - # of community placement reports per month? 8-20 seem to be more with new classification
 - # of investigation requests per month? 50-65 varies per month
- G. Are there any services that you believe parole officers should be providing, but are not providing?
 - Parole orientation class
- H. If so, what are the barriers that prevent officers from delivering these services?
 - time
- I. What type of inmate programs/classes are the parole officers at this institution involved in?
 - Offenders Offering Alternatives and a Pre-Release Class

15. **Please list any other issues you wish to discuss** or bring to the attention of the members of the Joint Committee on Corrections. n/a

16. Does your institution have saturation housing?

MECC does not have saturation housing.

17. Radio/Battery Needs:

- What is the number of radios in working condition?
 - 345 of 350
- Do you have an adequate supply of batteries with a good life expectancy?
 - Yes.
- Are the conditioners/rechargers in good working order?
 - Yes.