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Monitoring Visit to Shawnee Correctional Center

Shawnee Correctional Center is a medium-security male population facility. It is located approximately six hours south of Chicago and four hours south of Springfield near the southern border of Illinois in Vienna.

Vital Statistics:



Population: 1841
Design Capacity: 896
Average Annual Cost Per Inmate: \$16,325
Average Age: 33
Population by Race: 59% Black, 26% White, and 15% Hispanic
Committed from Cook County: 50%
Committing Offense: 5% Murder, 27% Class X, 23% Class 1, 26% Class 2, 9% Class 3, and 10% Class 4 felonies.

Source IDOC

Key Observations:

- While Shawnee benefits from leadership dedicated to providing a rehabilitative environment and inmate programming, overcrowding and staffing issues threaten to undermine administrators' efforts.
- Inmates at Shawnee report excessive time in cells, infrequent access to counselors, and concerns about cleanliness and staff conduct. Since JHA's visit, Shawnee has implemented a new cell cleaning regime.
- Shawnee, like other facilities, has significant facility repair needs.
- The facility had substantial waitlists for healthcare services and programming.
- Shawnee is to be commended for the quality and innovation of programming offered, including a new recycling program, a sophisticated metal shop, and programs that utilize inmate mentors as peer educators.

Monitoring Visit to Shawnee Correctional Center

Executive Summary

On March 13, 2012, representatives of the John Howard Association (JHA) conducted a monitoring visit to Shawnee Correctional Center (Shawnee).¹ During JHA's monitoring visit, Shawnee's administration stressed that most of the inmates at this medium-security facility have an out date and will see the streets again. However, overcrowding has made achieving Shawnee's mission of successful reintegration difficult. It is unfeasible to accomplish everything the administration strives for without sufficient staff and resources. Shawnee has staffing shortages and is at 205 percent of its rated capacity.² Additional counselors and educators to deliver services and security staff to maintain orderliness would help improve the facility.

The 28-year-old facility is beginning to show its age. Several major physical plant improvements are needed. Problem areas include roof leaks, paint, exterior windows, water heaters, laundry equipment, gutters and downspouts, steam boilers, and housing unit intercom systems. Administrators reported they are awaiting legislative approval for funding for most of these repairs.

Shawnee offers several notable programs for inmates including a 12-week lifestyle redirection program; a peer run five-day program given to all inmates entering Shawnee, TRAC 1 ("Trained, Reformed, and Capable"), which covers topics including STDs, men's health, substance abuse, and criminal behavior; monthly "Hot Topics" speakers; peer educators; an impressive metal shop; and a new "Go Green" recycling program.

Although the facility has limited resources, administrators recognize inmates' desire for more programming opportunities. As one solution to this problem, Shawnee was in the process of starting night classes for inmates who have day work assignments. Lakeland Community College has since begun classes and the facility plans to continue offering two courses at a time. JHA commends Shawnee for this responsiveness to inmate needs.

However, given lack of resources, programming including vocational and educational opportunity remains limited for most inmates. In fact, the July 2012 Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Quarterly Report stated that at that time only 380 inmates at Shawnee, approximately 20% of the population, participated in vocational or educational programming.³

JHA recognizes and appreciates that in the time since our visit Shawnee has made several notable advancements, including reducing healthcare wait times, developing a better cell cleaning protocol, starting inmate assignments for the recycling program, and working to resolve some physical plant issues. In communications subsequent to our visit, JHA was informed by IDOC that the agency holds Shawnee out as a model example for quality of life issues, in part

¹ This report is based on this visit and subsequent communications with administrators and inmates.

² Data from IDOC December 2012 Offender Tracking System report.

³ IDOC Quarterly Report, July 1, 2012, available at:

http://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Documents/IDOC_Quarterly%20Report_Jul%202012.pdf.

based on the agency's internal auditing.⁴ We are hopeful that leadership at Shawnee will continue this positive trajectory.

This report examines the following: Hardin County Work Camp, Living Conditions, Discipline and Segregation, Healthcare, Programs, Grievances, and Demographics.

Recommendations

1. To address inmates' complaint about the infrequency with which they saw their counselors, JHA recommends IDOC and Shawnee administrators reevaluate if current caseloads and assignments are workable given the inmate population.
2. JHA generally recommends that facilities track and review use of segregation and room restrictions.
3. JHA recommends Wexford address healthcare staff recruitment and that IDOC address teacher vacancies at Shawnee.
4. JHA recommends that Shawnee consider offering an older inmate yard and more aggressively recruit volunteers to provide programming opportunities.
5. JHA recommends that IDOC and Shawnee's administration continue their work in promoting and offering training that includes cultural sensitivity/competency for all staff in light of inmate complaints of racism, as recommended in other facility reports.

Hardin County Work Camp

Shawnee is the parent institution for the fenceless minimum-security Hardin County Work Camp (Hardin). Hardin is located in Cave-in-Rock, IL, approximately 50 miles east of Shawnee. While JHA did not visit Hardin, we received information about the facility from Shawnee administrators and had the opportunity to speak with several inmates who were housed there while at Shawnee. These inmates said that they enjoyed the increased movement the camp offered.

Administrators told JHA that to be eligible for housing at Hardin an inmate must meet criteria including that he must be within four years of his out date, be a non-violent offender, and have no escape attempts, or history of sexual offenses.

Subsequent to our visit, Hardin began absorbing some of the population transferred from Tamms Minimum-Security Unit in anticipation of that facility's proposed closure. Administrators reported that they brought in double bunks, increased staff, and are in the process of getting more phones and other practicalities to accommodate more inmates. Current population of Hardin is 253 inmates while its rated capacity is 150.

⁴ See e.g. IDOC FY2011 Annual Report, p. 40-41, where Shawnee scored 100% up from 74% for FY2010, available at: <http://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx>.

Historically Hardin's work crews have partnered with Habitat for Humanity and Lutheran Social Services primarily in the far southeastern counties of Hardin, Saline, and Gallatin. Hardin's Construction Occupations vocational program has built houses and provided various other items donated to these charities. However, because of current staffing and vehicle issues, inmates are no longer being sent out to do work in the community, such as helping with clean up or floodgate construction. Recently all work at Hardin is done onsite with more typical inmate jobs like dietary and grounds maintenance, while 18 students were enrolled in Construction Occupations.⁵

The FY2011 IDOC Annual Report noted that inmates at Hardin had created and maintained a vegetable garden that supplemented staff and inmate diet at the work camp and Shawnee. The report further noted that Hardin donated vegetables to local senior citizen centers and nursing homes.⁶ Hardin, like Shawnee, is active in IDOC's "Go Green" sustainability initiative.⁷ JHA commends such initiatives and community involvement.

On October 24, 2012, Hardin had a kitchen fire. JHA received several communications from inmates and their loved ones regarding the fire. While inmates understood that certain discomforts were unavoidable due to the fire, many were upset that they were given direct orders to return to living areas from the gym, despite inmate concerns about the safety of the living areas, on the night of the fire. JHA brought inmate concerns about the incident to administrators and recommended that IDOC and Shawnee review emergency plans and efficiency.

Administrators responded that staff response and execution of the evacuation were done efficiently and in accordance with directives and established fire plans while maintaining safety and security for inmates and staff. They noted that staff were commended by the Cave-In-Rock Fire Chief for their conduct as well. Fire and other safety drills are conducted on a regular basis at both Shawnee and Hardin.

Administrators reported that on the night of the fire the Fire Chief toured the facility and found the only damage was in the kitchen. They stated that, other than a smell of smoke, there was no damage to the living areas, and that the Fire Chief approved the return of the inmates to their living areas. The administration further noted that Hardin's Superintendent addressed every inmate in the gym explaining what had happened, what the Fire Chief had said, and that the living areas were safe. Administrators also stated that the Superintendent fielded questions from inmates at that time. Lastly, administrators stated that no inmate was ordered to return against his will, and that the administrative staff was available daily to address any inmate concerns.

Inmates returned to their living areas at approximately 1:00 a.m. Inmates claimed that about four hours after the fire, there were still strong odors, smoke, and debris in the living areas. Administrators stated that additional ventilation was provided and the living areas were properly ventilated by the use of large fans. Furthermore, they stated that there was no debris in the living areas. While inmates reported that they tried to cover their faces with whatever they had to

⁵ See note 2.

⁶ Available at, <http://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx>.

⁷ For more information about these programs see, <http://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/aboutus/Pages/ShawneeCCSustainability.aspx>.

minimize inhaling harmful materials and complained of breathing difficulties from sleeping in the living areas that night, administrators reported that the living areas had been ventilated for nearly four hours before inmates were allowed to return and that there were no harmful materials to inhale, reiterating that the fire damage was limited to the kitchen.

Other aftereffects of the fire that inmates reported were that they had no hot water and no laundry; however, administrators reported that these services were restored within 12 hours of the fire.

Administrators stated that the State Fire Marshal was contacted on the night of the fire and he advised to leave the scene "as is" until he made his investigation, which he did the next morning. When this investigation was completed, he released the fire scene and clean up began of the kitchen area.

The Hardin kitchen requires work to return to operational status. This has necessitated Shawnee to prepare meals for inmates at Hardin and transport them. Inmates complain about this food being cold. Administrators stated that the temperatures of the food are recorded at Shawnee before it leaves and again once it gets to the work camp and that the food has always been within acceptable temperatures established by the Health Department. They stated they have received no complaints from inmates regarding the quality of food. Additionally they reported there have been entrées prepared by charcoal grilling on site at Hardin and there are plans to purchase pizzas from a local restaurant. Administrators reported that a portable kitchen has been approved and should be in place by December 17, 2012.

Living Conditions

Shawnee opened in 1984 and consists of 24 buildings, totaling 369,029 square feet. The facility sits on 60 acres with 40 acres inside the fence. The living units consist of four X-type units with 50 double-cells per wing, one receiving and orientation unit, two segregation units with a capacity of 112, and a 16-bed healthcare unit. The facility now has only five designated single-cells; two in segregation and three in the healthcare unit. However, administrators reported that as of December 2012, nine inmates were single-celled in general population and three in segregation due to classifications of predator, vulnerable, or both. On the date of JHA's visit, Shawnee's population was 1827 out of 1866 available beds. As of December 2012, population was 1841.

Security headcount for Shawnee was 195 Correctional Officers, 12 Correctional Sergeants, 17 Correctional Lieutenants and six Shift Supervisors. Hardin had 28 Correctional Officers and six Correctional Lieutenants. Shawnee and Hardin both have fewer clerical and administrative support staff than authorized. At Shawnee, six security staff were reassigned to such duties. Shawnee has three mailroom staff authorized and administrators reported at the time of the visit that there was no mail backlog. Inmates reported mail delivery was slow. In the time since our visit, security and clerical staffing has not improved and there have been some retirements.

At the time of our visit, Shawnee had one fewer Correctional Counselor than authorized. Although Shawnee counselors have expressed interest in offering more programming, such as

drug education, large caseloads prevent them from expanding their work. Counselors are required to have contact with general population inmates every 60 days and are supposed to aid inmates with things including emergencies, reclassifications, work releases, transfers, and importantly grievances.⁸

As of December 2012, there are eight counselors and administrators described their duties as follows. Three counselors have a caseload of up to 448 inmates each. Another counselor has a caseload of up to 336 inmates plus the duty of being the Grievance Officer. One counselor has a caseload of up to 186 (including the 112 in segregation, who must have 30-day contacts, and inmates in receiving and healthcare). One counselor is assigned as the Field Services Representative and one is the Re-entry/Programs counselor. The last counselor is responsible for Hardin and has a caseload of 254, which would be up to 288 if Hardin were at full capacity. This counselor is also responsible for filling the work camp. Administrators reported that filling the work camp can be difficult as many inmates at Shawnee do not meet the selection criteria as described above.

This workload puts a tremendous strain on staff. Given these caseloads, it is not surprising that JHA heard complaints from inmates. Many inmates reported that they had never seen their counselor and during our visit asked JHA's representatives, "Are you my counselor?" JHA visitors heard complaints that problems with counselors were not just limited to infrequent contact and difficulty in getting pre-release information and assistance, but also included poor attitudes. JHA heard many complaints about issues that should have been being addressed by counselors. While JHA appreciates that the counselors' caseloads are significant, this lack of contact and assistance cuts off a vital line of communication for inmates and causes substantial stress and frustration among the population.

General population inmates at Shawnee reportedly have access to phones between 7:45 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., with calls limited to 30 minutes. However, JHA heard an inmate complaint that telephone time conflicted with work time so he was having difficulty keeping in touch with his family. Administrators responded that since inmates do not work the entirety of the time phones are available, they should have some access. In segregation, calls are limited to 15 minutes. Teletypewriter calls for hearing-impaired inmates are limited to an hour and a half.

Shawnee's visiting room is open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. General population inmates are permitted four hours visits while inmates in segregation or on room restriction have more limited visits. Immediate family may visit with inmates for one hour in the

⁸ See Title 20 Illinois Administrative Code, Section 504.810(a), which provides in relevant part: "An offender shall first attempt to resolve incidents, problems, or complaints other than complaints concerning disciplinary proceedings through his or her counselor.***. If an offender is unable to resolve the complaint informally or if the complaint concerns a disciplinary proceeding, the individual may file a written grievance on a grievance form that shall be made available in all living units. A grievance shall be filed within 60 days after the discovery of the incident, occurrence, or problem that gives rise to the grievance.***." Available at: <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/020/020005040F08100R.html>.

healthcare unit with approval; however extended visits may be approved based on the inmate's condition and activity within the unit. Hardin permits four-hour visits, eight times a month.⁹ JHA visitors noted Shawnee's visiting room had a lot of windows and was bright. The visiting room is decorated with a large painting of a lake and several nature posters. Games and bibles were available. Visiting rules were displayed in Spanish and English and other information that may be useful to visitors was displayed on bulletin boards.

Shawnee general population inmates may visit the library on average once a week on request. They may visit more frequently with a verified court deadline or other extensive legal work. Segregation inmates have access to library services by requesting materials. JHA visitors heard that segregation inmates wanted more books and were limited to one book and a bible. At the library, JHA visitors observed many inmates reading, numerous newspapers and magazines, and the librarian and inmate clerk at work. One visitor noted that the legal statute compilation was not up to date.

The standard items issued to Shawnee inmates on arrival to the facility include: three boxer briefs, three pairs of socks, two blue shirts and pants, one coat, one stocking cap, one pair of boots, one bath towel, one washcloth, two sheets, one pillowcase, one blanket, and one laundry bag. Laundry is available to inmates twice a week. JHA heard inmate complaints that the bedding and clothing were in bad shape. Additional items may be purchased from the commissary, however total property of various sorts are capped. Commissary is available to general population inmates on average once a week and to segregation inmates once a month with some shopping privilege restrictions. JHA received inmate complaints about commissary being slow, not offered in a timely fashion, as well as complaints regarding commissary prices in relation to fair market prices.

Dietary issues included complaints about the high soy content. Inmates reported that the dining room is unclean, has roaches, and that trays are dirty. Inmates complained of having just 10 minutes to eat. JHA also heard one contrasting report that inmates were fed "pretty good."

JHA received reports of difficulty getting a diabetic diet ordered by the doctor. JHA has recommended generally that IDOC evaluate and increase availability of therapeutic diets.¹⁰ Shawnee administrators responded that there was a review with the Medical Director of the therapeutic diet menus provided through the IDOC Registered Dietician's office. Further, they reported that healthcare staff order therapeutic diets based on the Medical Director's assessment findings, but education on food choices is to be provided during the regularly scheduled diabetic clinics.

JHA heard complaints about unstable bunk beds and inmate mattresses, as well as complaints about cleanliness in the living units. Related complaints included peeling paint and that the ventilation system blew debris into cells. JHA visitors observed in a general population unit that

⁹ See IDOC's website for more detailed visitation rules and information. Visitors may contact the Warden's Office at (618) 658-8331 for additional information. Hospitality House in Vienna is a non-profit organization that offers low cost overnight accommodations for visitors, (618) 658-2722.

¹⁰ See JHA's 2012 Healthcare Report, Recommendation 4, available at: <http://thejha.org/sites/default/files/Unasked%20Questions-Unintended%20Consequences.pdf>.

the shower area was dirty and the water did not fully shut off. Inmates also complained about the cleanliness of the showers.

At the time of the visit, JHA was told by inmates that there was one inmate who was assigned to clean all the cells on four wings (50 cells per wing), two at a time per day, and that in three months the cleaner had cleaned each cell just once. Another inmate stated that recently the cells in his unit were cleaned monthly but prior to that he alleged the cells had been cleaned only twice in the prior year. Although administrators told JHA that cleaning supplies were available for inmates to clean their own cells, every inmate JHA spoke to about cleanliness issues claimed this option was not available to them “because of security concerns,” and we heard repeatedly that inmates “never get disinfectant.” JHA also heard several separate complaints regarding inmates repeatedly contracting Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), which is a type of staph bacteria resistant to certain antibiotics. MRSA most commonly results in skin infections but can be more severe (MRSA is discussed further in the Healthcare section below).

Administrators reported that they have experienced numerous problems with inmates misusing and hoarding cleaning chemicals. Since our visit, in consideration of safety for staff and inmates, a new cell cleaning program was established. Administrators reported that now all cells are being cleaned and disinfected on a monthly cycle by inmates trained in sanitation. Additionally, they reported that at any time in between scheduled cleanings, inmates may submit a request to have their cell sanitized. When an inmate vacates a cell, the living area is cleaned and sanitized before a new inmate moves in. The cleaning crews are also using a “HDQ” cleaner that is effective against MRSA.

Another major concern on the housing units at the time of the visit was that although cell doors are supposed to unlock by one switch being flipped from a control unit that would unlock all of the doors, a few cells needed to be manually keyed open each time because they were broken. This is a safety hazard. Aside from the safety aspect, the inmates were upset because having to be manually let out of their cells cut into the time they were permitted to be outside their cells, such as for yard and meals. Administrators were aware of the problem when JHA visited, and reported that it has since been fixed.

Administrators reported general population inmates at Shawnee on average have 17 hours in their cells a day. Yard is offered five times a day and gym is offered three times a day for an hour each. JHA heard complaints that yard was not offered daily or was shortened to 40 minutes. Segregation inmates get five hours a week total out of their cells and are permitted two showers a week, which comes out of this time.

Shawnee inmates reported their number one issue was that they spent 20-22 hours in their cells a day on general population units. Inmates stated that Shawnee was much more restrictive than other medium security facilities. Several inmates expressed a desire to be transferred, especially to northern facilities. Inmates reported that walking to chow counted towards their out of cell time and that for the rest they had to choose between yard time, taking a shower or going to the gym. JHA heard several complaints about not being able to shower after going to the gym. Some inmates said in lieu of using their limited outside cell time to shower they would take a “bird bath,” meaning they would put up a sheet and do a sponge bath in their cell. Additionally many

inmates complained of difficulty getting into educational and vocational programming or getting a job resulting in them being confined for longer periods. Possibly the reported lack of out of cell time relates to staffing issues and housing units having inadequate coverage at times.

Inmates conveyed to JHA visitors that overcrowding and being confined with a cellmate for long periods of time results in fights. On the other hand, one inmate stated that “You’ve got a greater chance of being harmed in front of a police station on the South Side of Chicago than you do here,” but at a price, “You’re in a cell all day. Everything is completely controlled.”

Discipline and Segregation

Inmates reported that the disciplinary practice of room restriction was used frequently at Shawnee. Inmates complained to JHA that when an inmate is on room restriction his cellmate is also restricted and that room restrictions mean that the inmate only has one shower and one yard opportunity a week. If that is in fact the case, room restrictions are in those respects more restrictive than segregation.

Administrators responded that when an inmate is issued a Major Disciplinary Report warranting restriction of his movement only that inmate is placed on room restriction. They stated that the cellmate will be allowed privileges in accordance with his grade. However, all movement into and out of the cell will be “keyed” by the wing officer instead of being electronically opened by the control room officer in order to control unauthorized movement by the inmate on room restriction.

The disciplinary segregation units at Shawnee have a capacity of 112 inmates and at the time of JHA’s visit 105 inmates were housed there. Segregations inmates are generally double-celled. The average segregation stay is 43 days. At the time of the visit, 36, or more than a third, of the segregation inmates were receiving psychotropic medication or mental health treatment.

Inmates in segregation have yard two times a week for two and a half hours on average at a time, for an average of at least five hours a week. They may take two showers per week. Limitations are imposed on segregation inmates for audio visual privileges, visits, gym, commissary purchases, telephone usage, property items, and consideration for funeral furloughs. Segregation inmates are allowed only one 15-minute phone call per month, provided they are not in “C” grade. Visitations are limited to one-hour non-contact visit twice a month

As one prisoner termed it, Shawnee is a “discipline joint,” meaning that tickets are given frequently. JHA visitors heard reports of inmates being sent to segregation for minor or provoked instances. We heard several independent reports that during mass movement of inmates, chow lines in particular, certain correctional officers would taunt inmates to try to get them to react and then ticket them.

Disciplinary ticket data for a one-year period, July 2011 to July 2012, showed approximately 3500 findings of guilt. Fewer than 400 were for major offenses. Of these, approximately 60 findings of guilt related to assault, dangerous contraband, dangerous disturbances, escape or sexual misconduct. The most common findings of guilt were approximately: 600 for Disobeying

a Direct Order, 600 for Violation of Rules, 500 for Insolence, 400 for Contraband/Unauthorized Property, and 300 for Unauthorized Movement.

Inmates reported a high level of stress in segregation. Also JHA heard reports of assaults and racism on these units (see further discussion of inmate concerns in the Grievance section below). However, we also heard the opposite: that general population correctional officers were a problem, but the ones in segregation were “cool.” One inmate a JHA visitor spoke to was being accommodated on segregation for his safety, because he was being taunted by inmates and staff in general population for being gay.

JHA also received inmate complaints regarding segregation personal property restrictions, yard not being available, and showers being limited to two to five minutes once a week. JHA heard that there were two broken showers in segregation.

Another major issue was that certain windows in segregation were not opening. As mentioned above, the windows are a known physical plant issue. Administrators were quick to respond when this issue was raised by JHA visitors. The latest report was that window repairs are funded and would begin in December 2012.

Healthcare

Shawnee’s healthcare unit has a capacity of 16 inmates, including three crisis/respiratory isolation rooms, which are used for suspected MRSA. Inmates in IDOC do not incur co-pay charges for soft tissue infections, e.g. MRSA.

Administrators responded to inmates reported concerns about MRSA by clarifying that healthcare staff will assess any inmate suspected of having a soft tissue infection or “every open sore.” Based upon orders by the physician or nurse practitioner, the inmate may be admitted to the infirmary for isolation but generally all are started on prescription medication. MRSA data is reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Administrators reported that from January 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, there have been 30 inmates identified as testing positive for MRSA but there have been no clusters identified. For the calendar year of 2011, 31 inmates had cultures positive for MRSA, with no clusters identified. Shawnee healthcare staff explained that a cluster is defined as two or more inmates with MRSA on a wing within a period of 10 days. Inmates JHA spoke with claimed to have contracted MRSA from their cellmates, which would constitute a cluster if it occurred within a 10 day period. Administrators responded that there were no cultures confirming these claims. The new cleaning regime will hopefully aid in reducing instances of MRSA.

Shawnee’s healthcare unit daily average was reported as approximately 15 inmates in the unit and the approximately 13 inmates for nurse sick call. On the date of JHA’s visit we observed many inmates waiting for care.

All Shawnee healthcare staff including medical, mental health and dental are employees of contractor Wexford with the exception of the Health Care Administrator (HCA), a social worker and a nurse at Hardin who are state employees. Wexford is also responsible for healthcare related

interpreter services, which are provided via video conferencing or telephone services. Shawnee's Wexford employees include a fulltime dentist, dental assistant and dental hygienist, director of nursing, 12 Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), seven Registered Nurses (RN), three staff assistants, a medical director, a medical records director, a pharmacy technician, and a social worker. Part-time healthcare positions include an optometrist, Telepsych (psychiatrist), radiology technician, and a staff assistant.

At the time of JHA's visit healthcare vacancies at the facility include a fulltime Clinical Psychologist, a Mid-Level Practitioner, a Qualified Mental Health Professional, and a RN position. Shawnee's HCA said the most critical vacancy was the mid-level practitioner.

As of December 2012, there are two vacancies, the fulltime Mid-Level Practitioner (Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant) position and one fulltime LPN. Administrators reported that Wexford maintains that recruiting efforts are continuing for these positions. Shawnee also has an extended leave of absence within the Healthcare Unit for the fulltime Medical Director. Administrators reported the Medical Director's position is being filled with other physicians at present. JHA has recommended IDOC and contractor Wexford implement a strategic plan to fill vacancies in a timely manner.¹¹

Shawnee's location in rural southern Illinois can cause difficulty in attracting healthcare staff. Also, as noted by the HCA, "the prison environment is not for everyone." The HCA said what could be done to help fill these positions would be to advocate for compact licensure legislation, which would allow medical professionals licensed in neighboring states to be eligible for these positions with contractor Wexford. Kentucky and Missouri are within about an hour drive to Shawnee and the facility is closer to points in these states as well as points in Indiana, Tennessee and Arkansas than either Springfield or Chicago. Many of the states bordering Illinois already have compact licensure. However, administrators stressed this is just one way to possibly increase the recruiting efforts, along with advertising in the papers, mailings to licensed professionals, visiting college and university programs for the licensed professionals, offering informational sessions on the correctional system, etc.

At the time of the visit, Shawnee had a significant backlog for non-emergent medical care with 367 inmates still needing to be seen from as far back as more than three months prior, December 2011. This included 56 inmate physicals and 265 inmates waiting for clinical care. From the month prior to the visit, 37 follow-ups had not yet been seen and more worrisomely nine "72-hour referrals" had not been seen.

As of December 2012, nursing staff reported that Shawnee is up to date with inmates needing to be seen and those being scheduled to be seen by the physician and/or nurse practitioner are all those with current visits due within November.

¹¹ See JHA's 2012 Healthcare Report, Recommendation 8, available at: <http://thejha.org/sites/default/files/Unasked%20Questions-Unintended%20Consequences.pdf>.

There was also a waitlist of 21 inmates for the optometrist at the time of the visit, however most requests were made only in the prior month; administrators noted a large improvement from a year before when inmate requests were backlogged a year.

JHA visitors noted in the healthcare unit that the ophthalmology area appeared dusty and that a date on a medication that was visible in a locked case expired six months prior to the visit date. Administrators reported these issues have been addressed and corrected.

| Number of Shawnee Inmates Diagnosed with Chronic Illness ¹² | |
|--|-----|
| Asthma | 171 |
| Cancer | 3 |
| Diabetes | 60 |
| Hepatitis C | 82 |
| HIV | 21 |
| Hypertension | 270 |
| Tuberculosis | 18 |
| Seizure | 34 |

Telemedicine is used for some clinics. Use of Telemedicine met with initial resistance from Shawnee staff and inmates but reportedly they have adjusted. The HCA commented that they in general would prefer to do things onsite but for specialty clinics, such as HIV and Hepatitis C, Telemedicine is a great thing because it allows inmates access to specialists. Additionally, for many inmates who return to Chicago, where the Telemedicine specialists are located at University of Illinois, Chicago, it makes it easier for inmates to transition to community care there on release.

At the time of the visit, there were mental health staff vacancies for a Psychologist and a Qualified Mental Health Professional (MHP) and Shawnee had only two fulltime social workers and a part-time psychiatrist via Telepsych. Mental health staff caseloads were very large. As of December 2012, Shawnee has three MHPs, a Social Worker III and Telepsych coverage.

About a fifth of Shawnee's population takes psychotropic medication. The psychiatrist is available for Telepsych three days a week for approximately 27 hours. The psychiatrist's active caseload at the time of the visit was 350 inmates on psychotropic medications, none involuntarily.

Telepsych also had a lot of initial resistance from staff and inmates. Staff reported that it is still not very popular but is "better than nothing." JHA was informed Telepsych is most commonly used for inmates taking antidepressants at Shawnee. Shawnee's HCA stressed that Telepsych is not the preferred method of treatment. The HCA stated that an obvious problem of Telepsych is that the psychiatrist does not see or know the facility where the inmate patient is confined.

¹² Data from March 2012 Facility Questionnaire provided by Shawnee administrators.

JHA visitors observed an inmate in Telepsych; he was chained in a chair before a TV in a small otherwise empty room, the doctor could be seen on the screen behind a desk and appeared rather far away, his facial features hard to discern. When this inmate was interviewed he seemed apathetic about the Telepsych experience but the JHA visitor noted his positive inaction with the security staff member escort.

At the time of the visit, Shawnee had a backlog of non-emergent mental health care. Three ordered follow-ups and four staff referrals were pending from the prior month. For onsite mental health professionals, there was a backlog of 192 inmates for follow-up, dating as far back as August 2011. There were also waiting lists for participation in groups offered by the mental health professionals, which include Anger Management, Anxiety Management, Grief Management and Coping Skills.

Administrators reported that as of December 2012 the total psychiatric backlog is 3.14%. The psychiatric caseload is now 381 inmates with 12 follow-ups due as of the week prior. The total MHP backlog is 11.8%. The caseload for the mental health professionals is 457 offenders with 54 follow-ups due as far back a month prior. Administrators stated that the MHP backlog will continue to fluctuate depending on the number of emergencies, new intake referrals, and assessments required each week.

JHA commends Shawnee for significantly reducing their non-emergent medical and mental health care backlogs.

Dental too has a substantial backlog for treatment. At the time of the visit Shawnee administrators and Wexford were aware of the problem and were trying to address it. Shawnee was on their third dentist in recent history and the current one had been at the facility less than three months at the time of the visit. The dentist had adopted an office setting approach where patients were being prioritized by need. Administrators noted at the time that the dentist had a better plan in place and was open to restoring teeth where possible. Also the HCA had recently gotten a second dentist authorized for some hours by fiscal services to help with the backlog.

At the time of JHA's visit, 109 inmates were waiting for prosthetics, with requests dating back to June 2010. 308 inmates were waiting for restorative work, with requests dating back to October 2010. 245 inmates were waiting for extractions, with requests dating back to September 2011. Such delays for necessary extractions can pose serious risks to inmate health, such as sepsis or Ludwig's angina. Additionally there were 442 inmates waiting for hygienist services with requests dating back to September 2011.

As of December 2012, administrators reported 61 inmates were waiting approximately 72 weeks for dentures/partials, 228 inmates were waiting approximately 93 weeks for fillings/restorative work, 213 offenders were waiting approximately 36 weeks for extractions and 397 inmates were waiting approximately 56 weeks for cleanings. Furthermore, many of these inmates have multiple extractions or multiple fillings that need to be completed and the information provided for the waitlists represents only the number of inmates requesting each service and not the number of teeth for each procedure. The dental hygienist has recently returned from an extended

leave of absence where there was no temporary coverage other than the dentist performing some cleanings where he was able.

In general inmates were upset by the \$5 healthcare copayment, which was a legislative decision and affects inmates throughout IDOC. JHA recommends that this co-pay be eliminated as it impedes access to care.¹³ In particular inmates complained that indigent inmates who were not supposed to incur this fee were charged it as soon as they received any money in their account at a later date. Additionally, they reported that inmates were being improperly charged co-pays for emergency healthcare visits. Also, as at other facilities, inmates complained that they would have to see the nurses three times, incurring \$15 of co-pays (more than monthly state pay), before being referred to the doctor.

Administrators responded that inmates are only charged for non-emergent healthcare requests and that co-pays will not be incurred for scheduled follow-ups, regularly scheduled chronic illness clinic visits, physical examinations, assessment of suspected soft tissue infections, or emergency situations. They explained that any inmate who is seen per his request is required to sign a co-pay voucher if the healthcare staff assessor determines his request is non-emergent. The co-pay vouchers are sent to the Business Office where there is a system to determine whether an inmate is indigent, thus determining whether the co-pay will be drawn from the inmate's trust fund. Regardless of trust fund status, inmates are provided with healthcare services.

Further, administrators emphasized that nursing staff can refer an inmate to see the nurse practitioner or physician at any time based upon their assessment findings (whether it is the first, second, or third time they are seen). Inmates are not required to utilize the sick call process three times before being referred; however there is an additional guideline that anytime an inmate is seen for the same complaint three times within a 30 day period, he must be referred to be seen by the physician.

The only programs for substance abusers at Shawnee consist of volunteer provided Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA). There was a waitlist for AA/NA participation. There are no formal substance abuse treatment programs at Shawnee nor are inmates formally identified as having substance abuse problems. Administrators noted that inmates entering IDOC are interviewed for potential substance abuse issues by counselors at the reception and classifications center who utilize the Texas Christian University (TCU) Substance Abuse Assessment to assign inmates an assessment number from zero, meaning no self-reported history of abuse, to nine, meaning severe self-reported history of abuse. Administrators stressed that Shawnee allows inmates to request a substance abuse treatment transfer at any time. They stated that the Casework Supervisor reviews requests monthly and submits inmates for transfer to substance abuse treatment facilities as appropriate. If an inmate is not considered appropriate for the transfer, the inmate is notified of the reason and encouraged to participate in the AA/NA program. Correctional counselors also may utilize the TCU score to make a recommendation for substance abuse programming for inmates when they are released on parole.

¹³ See JHA's 2012 Healthcare Report, Recommendation 5, available at: <http://thejha.org/sites/default/files/Unasked%20Questions-Unintended%20Consequences.pdf>.

For sex offenders, individual treatment is available at Shawnee. However, if an inmate is evaluated by mental health staff as needing a sex offender treatment program he will be referred for transfer to an active program at another facility, such as Graham Correctional Center, Big Muddy River Correctional Center or Illinois River Correctional Center. As noted at other facilities, it can be very difficult for sex offenders to find placement for release. Shawnee's problems with counselor contact and pre-release planning likely exasperate this common issue. JHA has heard from Shawnee inmates with this concern.

Peer educators are utilized in healthcare to teach inmates about HIV and STDs and are available to lead groups or to meet one-on-one. JHA applauds Shawnee's administrators for recognizing the value of peer education and utilizing this often untapped resource.

Despite healthcare challenges made apparent during our visit, JHA did hear inmate compliments for healthcare at Shawnee, such as for particular staff including the HCA, nurses, and the new dentist.

Programs

JHA appreciates Shawnee administrators' efforts to expand programming for inmates to aid in their successful return to outside life. Shawnee has some exciting programs, which we hope will be available to a greater percentage of the inmate population in the future.

Of more than 1800 inmates, Shawnee's May 2012 non-duplicative total was 380 inmates served in the educational and vocational programs.¹⁴ This number does not include industries, which at the time of the visit employed 21 inmates and, as of December 2012, another eight who are employed in the new recycling program. Administrators reported that approximately 1200 inmates, or two-thirds of the population, have assignments.

However, for the significant number of inmates at Shawnee who are not employed or do not partake in programs, rehabilitative opportunities and out of cell time are not nearly as substantial. At the time of the visit Shawnee did not have an Assistant Warden of Programs and there are other staff vacancies that impede the provision of programming. Current IDOC hiring freezes, budgetary issues, and pressing physical plant needs further obstruct the Shawnee's ability to provide more rehabilitative services.

Shawnee offered 14 Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes with 202 students enrolled. At the time of the visit there was a waitlist of 103 inmates. Last year 146 inmates completed their ABE. Shawnee had 97 inmates enrolled in four General Education Development (GED) classes. 89 inmates were on the waitlist. Last year 61 inmates obtained their GED. ABE and GED classes are taught two hours a day five days a week. ABE class is four and a half months while GED ranges from six to eight months. Peer educators are also used for academic programs. Shawnee has six fulltime teachers and two vacancies.

¹⁴ IDOC Quarterly Report, July 1, 2012, available at:
http://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Documents/IDOC_Quarterly%20Report_Jul%202012.pdf.

JHA visitors heard mostly positive comments from inmates who were able to take educational classes. However, we also spoke to an inmate who repeatedly tried to get into the GED class without success. Another inmate recently reported frustration that although he has been in a class for seven months, due to his teacher's absences he has only had about 30 days of class. Administrators responded that because all classes are at or close to capacity, students cannot be reassigned even where there are significant teacher absences and class cancellations. Having teaching vacancies of one forth in the educational program is a serious impediment.

Hiring of new teachers is an IDOC level decision. Like in the healthcare area, filling vacancies depends on qualified professionals being willing and able to live in the vicinity, as well as being able to wait out what can be a lengthy application process.

Shawnee administrators told JHA that having volunteers in the academic area would not be likely as there was no known interest from the community, the union would resist it, and there would be security concerns. Shawnee had volunteer literacy teachers at some point but they found it unworkable. JHA notes that Illinois River Correctional Center, which is also a medium security facility, has recently started a literacy program that uses inmates as peer educators and which may serve as a model for other facilities.

As mentioned in the introduction, administrators wanted to offer night classes for inmates with daytime work assignments. However, these offerings would be limited to college level courses offered by Lakeland Community College. At the time of the visit Psychology was the only college course offered, but administrators hoped to offer English and writing classes. Shawnee now has two college classes and plans to continue offering two at a time.

For vocational programming Shawnee offers commercial custodial, auto mechanics, and career technology courses. The programs had 14, 17, and 15 students enrolled respectively. Commercial custodial is a two-month course that trains inmates in the application and restoration of floor care and custodial maintenance. Students who successfully complete the program are given priority in facility work assignments that enable them to use the skills that they learned in the vocational program.

Auto mechanics takes 10 months to a year and again is limited to first time offenders with good behavior, but these inmates must also have their GED. At the time of the visit, there was a waitlist of 80 inmates for auto mechanics, and priority is given to those with the shortest time left. The course is unable to accommodate more than the current 17 students without adding a second instructor. The course can take more than a year to complete and the students are simultaneously at various stages in the program. JHA visitors toured the automotive shop and observed students brushing up on math skills, others doing paper course work, men taking tests on computer based modules and multiple sites for hands on work. The program teaches computer based engine analysis. Students in this course have gained employment in the field. Career technology is offered to inmates within six months of release. As mentioned above, Hardin offers a Construction Occupations course, which around 20 inmates participate in. Shawnee used to have additional vocational offerings including a HVAC program. However, vocational classes have been limited because of community college funding issues.

Industry at Shawnee consists of an impressive metal fabrication shop that is run by Correctional Industries and an exciting new Go Green Initiative recycling program. In the metal shop inmates make metal furniture and specialty fabrication items, including benches, picnic tables, lockers and planters. This program used to be at Pontiac. During the years when IDOC opened many new facilities the shop made prison beds. At the time of the visit 21 inmates worked in the shop. There is not much employee turnover in the shop as it takes quite a bit of time to train the inmates in each position. Inmates move up the chain in this industry, typically start out with simple jobs, such as sweeping, and work their way up to running the machines, which include some modern pieces of equipment. However, inmates with special knowledge, for example experience with computers or operating particular equipment, may get a special assignment. Skills learned in the metal shop may include welding, metal finishing, powder coating, sandblasting, heavy machine operation, drafting, accounting, CNC operation, and computer programming. Shifts are normally 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Inmates arrive in the morning, eat lunch at the shop, and then shower at the shop and change into clean clothes before they go back to their housing units. The shop is unavoidably very hot in the summer and they try to run the oven in the morning so that it can cool down as the day gets hot. IDOC policy generally calls for hard labor to be curtailed when the heat index reaches 90 degrees and that all non-essential labor cease at a heat index of 100 or above.

The staff employees JHA visitors spoke with in the metal shop had substantial pride in the program. Inmates who participate in the program may be eligible to be certified for skills such as welding; however they do not receive certifications. The metal shop leaders do give inmates recommendations for jobs outside of prison. They reported that they maintain relationships with people in industry and like to maintain their good reputation as a training facility. JHA noted very positive, respectful, and relaxed interacts between staff and inmates in vocational and industry programs.

This year Shawnee has started a Go Green Initiative recycling program, which involves baling cardboard and plastic bottles. Shawnee sold their first cardboard batch for over \$1000 and also achieved savings on waste disposal costs of about \$500. The facility was planning to partner with other nearby correctional facilities to collect more recyclables. Shawnee thinks the facility will be producing three loads a month. Shawnee's recycling program was expected to employ 10 inmates. Unlike the metal shop, the recycling program will not require much training so turnover can be higher and hopefully more inmates will participate. JHA applauds Shawnee for its pioneering efforts in this exciting cost saving and earth friendly initiative.

Since our visit administrators reported that the recycling program continues to take off. There are, as of December 2012, eight inmates assigned, as some have dropped out due to transfer or discipline. Mostly these inmates are working in the kitchen cleaning recyclables. The assignments are expected to be for terms of about six months and Shawnee hopes to develop a vocational program. Inmates in industries have also been involved in the recycling effort. Additionally, Shawnee held a well-received contest among housing units to collect plastics and has a poster art contest planned. Although not all inmates involved in the green efforts will be eligible for good time credits through participation, the program is reaching more than just the inmates with formal assignments. The program also has potential to help the local community as there have been discussions about the program handling local towns' recycling.

When inmates are transferred to Shawnee they are required to participate in a five-day program entitled Trained, Reformed, and Capable (TRAC). This is taught by the Re-entry/Programs counselor who is assisted by 10 inmate peer educators who are given special training. The purpose of the program is to motivate inmates to want to improve themselves while they are incarcerated. Topics covered include STDs, men's health, addiction, substance abuse, healthy relationships, and criminal behavior.

JHA had the opportunity to speak with one inmate who was working towards being a peer educator and was impressed with his attitude of taking responsibility for one's own success and self-betterment. At the time of JHA's visit, 16 inmates were participating in TRAC. Graduates of the Lifestyle Redirection Program will assist in the TRAC class. The Lifestyle Redirection Program is a new 12-week program with the first class of 15 inmates graduating in March 2012. This program addresses topics including men's health, substance abuse, and healthy relationships.

Further, Shawnee has initiated monthly "Hot Topics" speakers, funded by the Inmate Benefit Fund, who address a variety of topics. Recent speakers included one who spoke about living with HIV/AIDS as a "life sentence" and a motivational speaker who overcame his run in with the law while being a band drug mule.

Another service for inmates is that state agencies send representatives to Shawnee to work with inmates to get State IDs or Drivers Licenses and to talk with inmates about child support issues. As mentioned above, counseling staff have expressed interest in offering a Drug Education course, but as of the time of JHA's visit it was not being offered due to staffing issues, and mental health offers groups for Anger Management, Anxiety Management, Grief Management and Coping Skills, which have waitlists.

Shawnee offers a Veterans Program monthly. Veteran Programming at Shawnee consists of special programs, certifications, and speakers. The FY2011 IDOC Annual Report¹⁵ notes that Illinois is one of five states, and Shawnee is of nine IDOC facilities, participating in a federal pilot program for incarcerated veterans through the Department of Labor that will assess the strengths and needs of veteran inmates within 18 months of release. An Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) veteran representatives will present workshops training veteran inmates in resume writing, interviewing, overcoming felony convictions, dressing for success, obtaining benefits, applying for and keeping a job, housing needs (only where there is a critical need), and where to find IDES representatives for assistance after leaving the facility. At the time of the visit there were 27 veterans incarcerated at Shawnee and two at Hardin. Assistant Warden of Operations, Robert Hilliard, reaches out specifically to veterans, who can sometimes have mental health issues, and reminds them that they are still part of a fraternity. Veterans Affairs (VA) representatives also come to Shawnee to explain to veterans how they may access their benefits. IDOC depends on inmates to self-report their veteran status to be included in such programming. JHA commends Shawnee and Assistant Warden Hillard for their efforts on behalf of this population.

¹⁵ Available at, <http://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx>.

More volunteer services would be welcome at Shawnee by facility administrators. Although JHA heard that the union may be resistant to some volunteer created programming, we hope that where it is apparent that the state will not or cannot provide funding, volunteer services will be welcomed for the good of the facility. While movement is difficult with overcrowding and limited staff, idleness too creates problems for staff with increased inmate tensions and resentment. Existing volunteer services are primarily religious. Shawnee had volunteer programming for Black History Month and as mentioned above, volunteers provide AA/NA services. Shawnee could benefit from increased volunteers to address the waitlist for AA/NA. Potential volunteers should be aware of, but not discouraged by, the fact that getting approval and security clearance may take a long time.

Grievances

The major areas of inmate concern at Shawnee at the time of the visit were staff conduct, time in cells, inability to clean cells, cleanliness in dietary, never seeing counselors, and physical plant issues, such as the serious need for repairs on doors and windows as discussed above. Administrators reported improvements for cell cleaning procedures and that the door and window repairs were or are in the process of being addressed.

As of the date of JHA's visit, March 13th, in 2012 there had already been the 195 grievances filed, compared to 346 reported filed in the entire prior year. The increase in grievances logged could be interpreted as an increase of problems; however it might alternatively reflect an improvement in recordkeeping. Administrators noted that staff conduct grievances are up this year. JHA visitors heard many reports of problems with correctional officers.

While JHA visitors heard compliments for higher level staff and some security officers we also heard inmate complaints that correctional officers at Shawnee are "severe in attitudes," "gung-ho out of the academy," "overly aggressive," and "racist."

JHA also heard several complaints about property issues with correctional officers. For property complaints inmates reported many instances where they received tickets for property, property was taken improperly, or that shake downs were conducted for the purpose of harassment and intimidation. JHA visitors heard that there was a lot of disrespect of inmates and provoking of inmates by correctional officers. Also we heard many reports of inmates being sent to segregation for minor incidents and that staff will "give tickets for anything" and that many inmates are written up for "insolence."

One inmate told a JHA visitor that in his home community Shawnee had a reputation for being a violent place; however he found it thankfully was not that bad. One inmate expressed that he would rather be at Menard where they have security cameras. JHA did hear several allegations of staff on inmate assaults, some of which may have had a racist component. Additionally, JHA heard complaints that Spanish speakers get punished and sent to segregation when they did not understand what was being said in English. Given such complaints, JHA recommends, as we have in prior reports, that IDOC continue to work with facilities to offer staff cultural competency/sensitivity training.

Many years ago, Shawnee had a reputation for having gang problems. Administrators reported that gang issues are no longer a particular problem at the facility though they remain vigilant. Perhaps this history has created an institutional mindset that is difficult to change.

The IDOC's Intelligence unit deals with gang or "Security Threat Group" (STG) issues and coordinates with outside law enforcement. If an inmate is flagged as a known gang member, he is subject to higher security and not eligible for certain opportunities. Gang members have an opportunity to renounce their affiliation. To do so they will be interviewed and expected to respond truthfully to questions about themselves and others. JHA is concerned that the renunciation process requires inmates to inform on others as this practice may lead to questionably valid information and a hostile environment among inmates who must finger others to achieve greater opportunity in the prison. Inmates reported that Intelligence agents "get inmates to lie."

Inmates at Shawnee reported a very low confident level in the grievance system. They said that grievances are often "lost," "ripped up," or "disappear into the system." Multiple inmates reported having difficulty obtaining copies of grievances. Additionally several inmates reported being retaliated against for filing grievances and that the grievance system was "corrupt." Inmates complained that the housing unit did not have a grievance box where inmates could deposit forms. Another report was that if counselors do not sign a grievance it would be thrown away and this created issues where inmates did not see counselors. Administrators reported that Shawnee's grievance procedures have been reviewed and the importance of the grievance process reiterated with the grievance officer. JHA recommends that Shawnee and IDOC continue to reevaluate the effectiveness of the grievance process. Based on JHA's work, IDOC reported it has initiated an internal audit of facility grievance systems.

JHA also heard reports that staff were disrespectful of inmates' right to communicate with our organization and that staff were looking at inmates' confidential legal communications.

JHA heard several complaints about dietary needs, including allergies, not being accommodated as well as denials of medical attention. Another issue that inmates complained of was not getting certificates and credits for courses. Not seeing their counselors made these issues difficult to resolve. Inmates were generally concerned with not seeing counselors as discussed above. JHA believes that this is a serious issue that requires an administrative planned response to improve contacts.

In general, while there were notable exceptions of staff members who went "above and beyond" and were "decent," there were complaints that the correctional officers were not professional, were doing whatever they wanted to do, and needed more supervision. For example, JHA heard a complaint that correctional officers were not doing rounds between counts at night. Inmates worried that staff were too busy to take the time to talk to anyone.

Administrators maintain that Shawnee security staff are "largely motivated and project a positive image" for inmates, however they acknowledged "as with all environments involving human interaction there will continue to be differences in opinion based on individuality." Where there were improvements in correctional officer behavior, inmates attributed it to respect for the

Wardens. JHA is hopeful that the positive example of Shawnee's leadership will continue to improve staff and inmate relations.

Demographics

Population demographics at Shawnee are reported as 58.75 percent Black, 26.14 percent White, and 14.86 percent Hispanic (with 0.19 percent reported as Asian and 0.04 percent reported as American Indian). About half, 49.4 percent, of the inmates are from Cook County. There were 123 inmates being held at Shawnee on Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees.

Shawnee offers a Spanish Orientation Manual and Grievance Form. Spanish speaking IDOC staff and telephonic interpreter services through IDOC and the medical vendor are available.

Committing offenses of the population are approximately: 5 percent Murder, 27 percent Class X, 23 percent Class 1, 26 percent Class 2, 9 percent Class 3, and 10 percent Class 4 felonies.

Approximately eight percent, or 146 inmates, are over 50 years old; Shawnee does not offer any special programming for this population.

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Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois' juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions.



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