

Inspection Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024
ETA approximately 6:40 pm - 11 pm
JOB Members Bethany Hallam & MAN-E
Greeted by Captain Lee Estock

Pod 1B:

We spoke with a woman who indicated she was only incarcerated because she did not have a home plan. She did not have one when she was leaving SCI, so she was sent to ACJ. She expressed frustration that no one at ACJ seemed able to help her locate somewhere that would allow her to go.

Numerous women on this pod stated it is very cold in their cells, and ACJ policy forbids them from covering vents.

They also have many tablet issues, including broken tablets and tablets sent for repair, leaving them without any table access for months at a time. One woman stated that when she turns on her tablet, the screen is black, and she was told she needed to buy a new one, despite not having done anything to cause this problem. A lot of women on the pod pointed out that if their tablet stops working, even if it's not their wrongdoing, they are told they need to pay for the tablet. A replacement tablet cost \$350. They want a way to get their tablets fixed without having to pay \$350 for a new one. These individuals also inquired about why, when spending \$350 to replace their tablet, they do not get a new table but instead get a refurbished tablet that tends to break shortly after. They asked numerous questions regarding the tablet charging process due to their tablets dying throughout the day and not being offered any way to charge them. This is a problem because they indicated that when they get their tablets in the morning, the charge does not last for the entire day - it often only lasts until the middle of the day.

We spoke with a woman who asked about the protocol for using a Taser. She reported that she got into an altercation with another incarcerated woman and has gotten into numerous fights in the past. Never before this past time did she get tased without a warning. She stated she was tased from behind with no verbal warning from the officer who tased her. She asked to be sent a lawyer to discuss this and asked if when she is out of the jail before I get an answer, I could call her mother.

A group of women on this pod reported Sargent Lardin put his taser on the ground and said he was going to play "duck, duck goose" with them and tase them.

Pod 2B:

We spoke with an individual whose tablet was broken due to no fault of his own—it just stopped working one day. As a result, he is unable to adequately communicate with his family, file grievances, or make sick calls. He said this is a very common problem on his pod.

We spoke with numerous individuals who asked for information about a new law passed regarding probation violations, particularly technical violations, and the maximum amount of time you can be held for a technical violation.

Pod 3A:

We spoke with an individual who reported he has been having internal bleeding, holes in his body, and has one kidney and half of a stomach as a result of being shot. Last time, when he was in ACJ on the same case, he was released as a result of his internal bleeding because the jail said they could not handle his injuries properly. He stated he was rearrested because his judge, Judge Todd, told him it was because he did not take a plea deal & was told he was “wasting everyone’s time.”

Pod 3C:

We spoke with multiple individuals expressing complaints about not being able to get copies of documents pertaining to their legal cases, including documents only made available on their tablets, which 1- often run out of battery and 2- cannot be taken to court with them. One individual states explicitly he is representing himself and is drafting documents such as Pro Se Motions. Court documents given to him on his tablet are not necessarily helpful because he cannot take his tablet into the courtroom. If he wants to bring documents to court with him, especially any notes he took on those cases, he cannot take with him because the tablets remain at the jail. Caseworkers are no longer allowed to provide copies of legal documents for incarcerated individuals.

We spoke with a corrections officer who used to work at a neighboring county jail. The jail he used to work at would allow the clerk/secretary to copy or print documents for incarcerated individuals. They suggested that possibly the new librarian the jail was supposed to hire could do this or some clerk/secretary could copy legal paperwork. The jail’s refusal to copy/print documents has been an ongoing issue that we have been hearing about from both staff and incarcerated individuals for months.

Another individual showed us the book cart that is in the room where the tablet charging station is. There were a total of 5 books: two bibles and 3 completely disheveled books that were unreadable. We have been told numerous times on JOB that these book carts are well stocked, but as seen on visits they are not. This individual wants to know how to get the book carts replenished.

Pod 4C:

Multiple individuals on this pod asked about the Inside Out Program, where loved ones could purchase outside food for people incarcerated. They stated they were told by jail staff that the contract was renewed and if that is true but, it hasn’t been offered to them yet.

One individual brought up the suggestion that there should be an incarcerated representative on the JOB with the understanding that when they get released, a new person would get appointed.

We received a complaint from an individual having issues with their tablet that prevents them from sending sick calls - the option is not there (we saw this with our own eyes). This individual has a knee injury from running from the police in December when he was brought to the jail. He is attempting to get some medication to help with the pain and was using a crutch when we saw him. He has been unable to request information and that help because his tablet does not allow him to send sick calls. He also stated he received an MRI Thursday, March 7th, but is wondering why it took since December to get that MRI and when he can expect his MRI results. This individual also reported he has been attempting to reach out to Religious Services because he is observing the Muslim faith and has been unable to use his tablet to report that so he can get Ramadan meals. He, and many others that we spoke to, mentioned the food in general has been barely edible the past two months. They were aware the jail recently changed the provider for the food, but were wondering why the food seemed to be fine when the provider first came but it has been especially awful the past two months.

Pod 4E

We spoke with the person who was the victim of the assault that led to the recent firing of a corrections officer. After the assault, the corrections officer filed a misconduct complaint against him. As a result, this individual spent 8-9 days in DHU and then filed a grievance with Internal Affairs that led to the termination and criminal charges against Officer Veith. He beat the misconduct, and he assumes that is why he was let out of DHU in 8-9 days. He is wondering why the JOB did not find out about this incident until the news reported it? The timeline suggests that within 8-9 days of the January 3, 2024 beating that the jail knew the misconduct was unwarranted. This individual said that since the assault in January, Sargent Sarver has been seemingly targeting him and he is concerned for his safety. We receive many complaints about Sargent Sarver, and report them to various officials within the jail, but no one ever seems to do anything about it.

Pod 5E:

Two individuals reported an incident to us about a month ago that he witnessed in the hallway of the 5th floor outside the infirmary where an incarcerated individual had his head smashed against the concrete wall by Sargent Sarver and other guards. Another individual said he heard the person went to the hospital and passed away shortly after. When I asked staff members at the jail about this, no one had any details about it. Another individual has a leg brace, and reports that Sargent Lardin is trying to take his leg brace for reporting the use of force incident in the hallway to us. The leg brace is needed to walk and it has never been an issue before. He said the officers "keep messing with him" and asking the officer on his pod to take it. He has a torn ACL and Meniscus and says the jail is denying him surgery.

Several individuals expressed concerns with the NIK test - the instant K2 detection test the jail uses, and explained that Sargent Sarver is frequently the person who administers these tests. They explained that if it tests positive, they send individuals to the hole pending results from the lab. They reported that sometimes the lab results come back negative for K2, and they never get any reparations for sitting in the hole for a false positive. This leads us to wonder how often the NIK tests are different from the lab reports.

We spoke with an individual who says that when he was in Renewal, he was sent back to jail because they found suspected K2 on the floor, but he never received any misconduct for that. He just got sentenced to alternative housing from Judge Bicket. Judge Bicket allowed him to do alternative housing. Still, when he reached out to Renewal on his tablet, he was told that because of the aforementioned misconduct that he says he never received, he was not allowed back to Renewal. Renewal representatives in the jail told him that they would let his judge know he cannot do alternative housing.

We also spoke with an individual who told us that his wife sent a very detailed diary of his medical issues to Karen Duffola that the jail has been neglecting, but that she ignored it and never followed up with him. This seems to be a recurring issue, with requests being ignored by the liaison.

*****This report was submitted under protest and with no admission that we can be barred from accessing the jail for not submitting it.***