

Unannounced Jail Inspection
Performed by Bethany Hallam & MAN-E
4/11/24 - 630pm - 9pm

The nature of our visit was to check on incarcerated persons (IPS) at the request of their loved ones. We were escorted to several housing units, where we observed jail operations and spoke to numerous IPS. Our findings include complaints about several key issues, such as Medical Treatment, Tablets, Food, the Commissary, and the treatment by jail staff.

We spent considerable time on 8E, commonly called "the hole." Several people we spoke to believed they were there unjustly, primarily due to unfounded allegations, and complained extensively about the disciplinary appeal process. We were shown several injuries, including missing teeth and bruised faces that were allegedly inflicted by jail staff, Sergeant Sarver repeatedly being named the main culprit. Many incarcerated individuals complained about the inability to communicate with loved ones and legal representation. One person complained he was unable to shower for two weeks. Another individual complained about being strip-searched excessively while being taunted and laughed at by the guards.

We spoke to several incarcerated individuals who expressed complaints about the lackluster medical treatment they were receiving. One person was sent to the hospital three times from the ACJ due to the jail not following their plan of care from the hospital. He was also given the wrong medication and he was allergic to the medication he received. He eventually contracted both a staph infection and MRSA, and now needs surgery.

We also spoke to a few people who were uninformed about their legal cases and wanted general information about things related to alternative housing, JRS, and probation.

Our findings suggest significant problems and dissatisfaction with the conditions and treatment of Incarcerated Persons in the Allegheny County Jail.

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