

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR CORRECTIONS

STANDARDS COMPLIANCE REACCREDITATION AUDIT

Arkansas Division of Corrections
McPherson Unit (ARDOC)
Newport, Arkansas

April 07 - 09, 2021

VISITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robbin Bell, Chairperson
ACA Auditor

Joy C. Bell
ACA Auditor

Bruce Edward Bell
ACA Auditor

A. Introduction

The audit of the McPherson Unit, in Newport, Arkansas was conducted on April 7 - 9, 2021, by the following team: Robbin Bell, Chairperson; Joy Bell, Team Member; and Bruce Bell, Team Member.

B. Facility Demographics

Rated Capacity: 964

Actual Population: 912

Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 845

Average Length of Stay: 2 years, 7 months, 12 days

Security/Custody Level: Maximum, Medium, Minimum

Age Range of Offenders: 18 - 79

Gender: Female

Full-Time Staff: 292

Administrative - 20, Support - 16, Program - 21, Security - 195, Other/Contractual - 40

C. Facility Description

McPherson Unit is a medium/maximum level facility situated on the White River, approximately two (2) miles northeast of the historic downtown city limits of Newport, Arkansas. Located in the county seat of Jackson, McPherson Unit's physical plant is seated on 193,957 square feet of agricultural land.

McPherson Unit is the designated Reception Center for all female offenders sentenced to the Arkansas Division of Corrections. The facility provides post-conviction incarceration and rehabilitation services for female offenders convicted of felony crimes.

The stated mission of the McPherson Unit is “ to provide public safety with incarceration of convicted inmate felons, a safe, secure, and humane environment for both staff and inmates, opportunity for inmates to serve their sentences positively and productively with the available programs, the training and staff support for employee's development of professional correctional standards and attitudes, and prudent fiscal management of Arkansas Division of Corrections (ADC) facilities, equipment, and resources.

McPherson Unit's perimeter consists of a double fence reinforced with a height of over 13 feet. The outer fence is topped with two (2) rolls of coiled taunt razor ribbon wire, the inner fence is topped with one (1) roll of coiled taunt razor ribbon wire. This perimeter encompasses an integrated Microwave Security System consisting of seven (7) security zones and a perimeter camera system monitoring the facility 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The facility is patrolled by two full time perimeter vehicles that service 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. McPherson Unit's Central Control operations is responsible for the monitoring of all of the facility's security surveillance.

McPherson Unit has three (3) points of egress into the facility. The Administration building serves as the facilities main entrance and pedestrian gate through which staff, contractors, and visitors enter. The Sallyport serves as the second point of egress and services all truck traffic. The facility's "Zone 11" serves as the third point of egress which services the squad and all work details.

McPherson Unit's physical plant includes four (4) housing zones utilizing a variety of living configurations including double-occupancy rooms, open-bay dormitories, and single occupancy cells. Housing Zone – 1 (Barracks 1 – 7) contains 81 double-occupancy rooms and 170 open-bay dormitory beds. Housing Zone – 2 (Barracks 8 – 14) contains 81 double-occupancy rooms and 173 open-bay dormitory beds, Housing Zone - 3 (Barracks 15 – 18) contains 227 open-bay dormitory beds, and Housing Zone - 4 (Barrack 19) contains 27 double-occupancy rooms. Additionally, Housing Zone - 4 includes 40 single-occupancy beds utilized by the Residential Program Unit, 3 medical observation rooms, 1 double occupancy medical observation room (SPU), 1 triple-occupancy medical observation room, and 60 single-occupancy Restricted Housing Unit cells.

Additional departmental space is provided for intake and discharge processing, mental and medical health services, indoor and outdoor recreation, religious services, academic and social services programming, food preparation and dining, commissary services, maintenance, laundry and library services, visitation, mailroom, security, administrative, and other related supportive services.

New arrivals are reviewed prior to transfer to ensure they meet the criteria of McPherson Unit. Upon arrival, offenders are placed in the Intake Barrack (10 and 19), then reviewed by the facility classification committee to be assigned jobs, academic assignments, etc in accordance with listed programming and/or medical needs. McPherson Unit do not house pregnant female offenders. These offenders are transported directly to the Hawkins Unit in Wrightsville Arkansas.

Programming provided at the McPherson Unit include: GED, Substance Abuse Treatment Program/Therapeutic Community (SATP), the Think Legacy Program, the Principle and Application for Life (P.A.L.), and the Riverside Vocational-Technical School.

McPherson Unit also includes a Prison Industry-Enhancement Program (P.I.E.). Partnering with the private enterprise and the Arkansas Division of Correction (ADC) the main source of operation consists of assembling wiring harnesses and cables. This ADC Industry operation falls under the jurisdiction of the ACA Correctional Industry standards.

McPherson Unit also shares agricultural services with the Grimes Unit in providing gardening, crop and hay operations to McPherson, Grimes and several other correctional Units around the area. Under the supervision and coordination of both McPherson and Grimes field staff/offender squads, the gardening operation received the “2020 – Garden of the Year Award”. In 2020, the combined work of McPherson and Grimes and staff/offender squad produced over 277,000 pounds of produce.

At time of this audit, an expansion project is underway at the McPherson Unit. This project entails additional office space added to the administration building which also includes: the visitation and chapel areas.

D. Pre-Audit Meeting

The team met on Sunday, April 4, 2021, in Newport, Arkansas to discuss the information provided by the Association staff and the officials from McPherson Unit.

The chairperson divided standards into the following groups:

Standards # 1A-01 to 3C-08 - Joy Bell, Team Member
Standards # 3C-09 to 5F-08 and 7B-01 to 7F-08 – Bruce Bell, Team Member
Standards # 6A-01 to 7A-15 – Robbin Bell, Chairperson

E. The Audit Process

1. Transportation

The team was escorted to the facility each day of the audit by Shelly Lawrence, Agency ACA Manager.

2. Entrance Interview

The audit team proceeded to the office of Nurzuhal Faust, Warden. The team expressed the appreciation of the Association for the opportunity to be involved with McPherson Unit in the accreditation process.

Nurzuhal Faust escorted the team to the visiting room where the formal entry meeting was held.

The following persons were in attendance:

Nurzuhal Faust, Warden
Billy Inman, Deputy Warden
Solomon Graves, Secretary – Arkansas, DOC
Dexter Payne, Director, Arkansas DOC
William Straughn, Deputy Director, Arkansas DOC
Dale Reed, Chief Deputy Director, Arkansas DOC

Richard Cooper, Assistant Director, Arkansas DOC
Byron Brown, Lieutenant, Fire/Safety Coordinator, Arkansas DOC
Bernard Williams, Regional Manager, WellPath
Shelly Lawrence, Agency ACA Coordinator, Arkansas DOC
Virginia Robins, McPherson Unit ACA Manager
Tina Babb, Scribe
Sherika Grider, Scribe
Lee Ann Elliot, Administrative Specialist
Kramer Jones, Sergeant
David McClusky, Lieutenant
Brandy Elliot, Sergeant
John Sparks, Sergeant
Corrina Owens, Sergeant
Christopher Pelly, Corporal
Judy Baiza, Director of Nursing
Amanda Bailey, Health Services Administrator
Robert Hall, Corporal – Maintenance
Gary Cox, Maintenance Supervisor
Jalesia Hearyman, Human Resource Assistant
Ciara Dauck, Human Resource Manager
James Young, Unit Trainer
Cynthia Jackson, Corporal – Programs Security
Jeanne Long, Classification
Micah Bone, School
Melissa James, Administrative Review Staff
Rhonda Webb, Business Manager
Tammy Wilson, Records Supervisor
Ronda Piker, Commissary
Johnnie Swift, Captain
Corporal Chandler, Intake
Mildred Johnson, Sergeant – Laundry
Clara Robinson, Inmate Library
Bobbie Huffman, Inmate Library

It was explained that the goal of the visiting team was to be as helpful and non-intrusive as possible during the conduct of the audit. The chairperson emphasized the goals of accreditation toward the efficiency and effectiveness of correctional systems throughout the United States. The audit schedule was also discussed at this time. The chairperson requested that the assigned escort/scribes provide the audit team members space during the process when interviewing offenders and/or staff to facilitate open interaction.

The audit team then offered information about their respective professional backgrounds as well as experience with the standards and accreditation process. The attendees then introduced themselves and their particular functions.

3. Facility Tour

The team toured the entire facility from 12:56pm to 3:45pm and from 5:25pm to 5:55pm. The following persons accompanied the team on the tour and responded to the team's questions concerning facility operations:

Nurzuhul Faust, Warden
Billy Inman, Deputy Warden
LaSaundra Malone, Major
Gary Cox, Maintenance Supervisor
Tina Babb, Scribe
Sherika Grider, Scribe
Lee Ann Elliot, Scribe
Kramer Jones, Sergeant
David McClusky, Lieutenant
Brandy Elliot, Sergeant
John Sparks, Sergeant
Corrina Owens, Sergeant, Fusion Center/STTG
Christopher Pelley, Corporal
Lasaundra Malone, Major
Kramer Jones, Sergeant
Brandy Elliot, Sergeant
Corrina Owens, Sergeant

ACA notifications and PREA signs were strategically posted throughout the various areas of the facility.

4. Conditions of Confinement/Quality of Life

During the tour, the team evaluated the conditions of confinement at the facility. The following narrative description of the relevant programmatic services and functional areas summarizes the findings regarding the quality of life.

Security

McPherson Unit is a multi-security level facility. Its perimeter is surrounded by a double chain link fence reinforced with a height of over 13 feet. The outer fence is topped with two (2) rolls of coiled taunt razor ribbon wire of 13.4 square feet. The inner fence is topped with one (1) roll of coiled taunt razor ribbon wire of 11.8 square feet. The facility is patrolled by two (2) alternating full time perimeter vehicles that services 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. McPherson Unit's perimeter security is comprised of a microwave, hard wire detection alarmed system consisting of seven (7) zones, all servicing the facility 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. LED lighting serves to illuminate the outside perimeter of the facility during hours of darkness. McPherson Unit's Central Control operations is responsible for the monitoring of all facility security systems.

McPherson Unit has three (3) points of egress into the facility. The Administration building serves as the facility's main entrance and pedestrian gate through which staff, contractors, and visitors enter. The Sallyport serves as the second point of egress and services all truck traffic. Zone 11 serves as the third point of egress which services the staff and offender field squads.

Identification is checked, with log entry on each individual entering the building. This includes staff, offenders, volunteers, contractors, and other authorized personnel. Entrance and exit into the compound is through the Front Administration building. Upon entry, temperature checks are conducted with masks required. If not in possession of a mask, one will be provided. Volunteers, contractors, and other authorized personnel then proceed with a pat down search and a metal detector, and if all clear, entry is granted. All personal items are screened by way of a security monitoring conveyor machine prior to entering into the facility.

Offsite law enforcement probation/parole, and other authorized personnel, are notified they must secure their weapons in their vehicle. Staff do not carry personal protection devices. In lieu of these devices, radios are distributed to designated staff to assist with the monitoring of offender movement and communication. McPherson Unit security department is comprised of 195 fulltime staff. Shift coverage consists of two (2) 12-hour shifts: 5:45am – 6:00pm and 5:45pm – 6:00am.

McPherson Unit has a total of 327 cameras that have been strategically placed throughout the facility. Camera surveillance monitors all staff entrances, living quarters, outside perimeter, and offender work areas. Cameras are monitored in the Central Control and in the facility's camera room. Central Control maintains one (1) less lethal cage containing chemical agents and munitions. All items were inventoried and properly secured. Additional security equipment and devices include: electronic walk through gates, x-ray scanners-conveyor belt type, walk through metal detectors, electronic riot gates, hand-held metal detectors, inspection mirrors, and three (3) restraint chairs.

Post orders and evacuation procedures were reviewed and were found to be clear, concise, and in order. Central Control staff interviewed were very knowledgeable and understood their role as being the nerve center of the facility.

Keys and tool control are monitored appropriately. A master inventory of all keys is maintained. Administrative staff members review requests for keys and have established a system under which special authorization is required to receive keys other than those assigned to them on the basis of post or duty assignment. Emergency keys are available for issuance in the event of a life-safety or security emergency. Back-up emergency keys are maintained. Keys are inventoried and inspected on each shift. A check-in and check-out system is in place and duty keys issued to staff are logged in and out on an issuance logbook.

The facility has a multi-faceted system of tool control. Tools are classified as “Class A” tools, “Class B” tools, or “Class E” tools based on their potential risk for use as a weapon or the likelihood the tool could be utilized to facilitate escape. The highest risk tools are designated as Class A tools. These tools are stored in a locked cage area which is restricted to staff members only. These tools must be issued by a staff member and may only be used by inmates under the direct supervision of a staff member. The Class B tools are considered less risky than those designated as Class A, but their issuance and use is also strictly controlled. Class E tools include lower risk equipment type tools such as those issued for daily cleaning tasks. Tools are stored by means of a shadow board storage system which is used in conjunction with a check-in and check-out logbook. All tools are inventoried daily. The main tool storage area is located in the maintenance building. There is a system in place which requires that new tools be added to the master inventory prior to being placed in service. Broken equipment or tools are promptly removed from the main compound in an effort to prevent them from being fashioned into weapons or other contraband. During the course of the tour, several tools were checked to ensure inventory and issuance records were accurate. Food service tools and medical sharps were also checked during the tour. No significant problems were found.

Searches are conducted on offenders as they depart and return from varied work assignments. Offender movement is controlled, and offender searches are conducted randomly in key areas within the facility. Within a 24-hour period there are a total of nine (9) formal counts (12:30am, 2:30am, 5:30am, 6:30am, 9:30am, 1:30pm, 5:30pm, 6:30pm, and 10:30pm). Additional wellness counts are conducted throughout the day/evenings.

McPherson Unit maintains a small Armory, with a limited supply of munitions, weapons, and equipment. All items were found properly labeled, secured and inventoried. All keys are provided by way of the chit system. The Emergency Response Team is designated at shift briefing and consists of staff from different shifts.

McPherson and Grimes share ICC Garage work assignment responsibilities. Inspection found all Class A and Class B tool were secured and properly inventoried. Recommendation was made that the key box would provide more of an accurate method of accountability if box was larger and more organized. Also discussed status of Class A and Class B tools being locked and secured behind a Class A door lock.

Inspection of the facility’s Warehouse found all of its processes of accountability in order. American standard keys are ordered and sorted in the Armory. Safety Data Sheet were in order and in secured chemical cage. It was discussed that the boiler log located in the mechanical room in Housing Unit 1 needed to be updated.

McPherson and Grimes Unit share a 12-person Emergency Response Team (ERT). This team assists both the facilities with shakedowns and emergency situations, such as riots, forced cell movements, etc. Care and services are under the supervision of the assigned security staff. Grimes Unit's Emergency Response Team and Canine Unit are also available to assist other Units in shakedowns and emergency situations upon request.

Special Management and Restrictive Housing

McPherson Unit has a 60 bed Restrictive Housing Unit (RHU) and a 40 bed Residential Housing Unit (RPU). These areas are supervised by a Sergeant Monday through Friday with the assistance of shift staff seven (7) days per week. McPherson's RPU is the only Residential Program Unit for female offenders in the Arkansas Division of Correction. McPherson does not house offenders in RHU that are under the age of 18.

McPherson Unit's RHU provides outdoor uncovered exercise areas. RHU exercise areas are comprised of individual yard modules. Each yard module consists of 180 square feet of unencumbered space. Documentation reflects all offenders housed in RHU receive a minimum of one (1) hour of exercise outside their cells, five (5) days per week, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise. Sanitation in the RHU and cells and recreation areas were good. Additional mattresses were sanitized, covered, and readily available for usage.

Documentation of security cell to cell observation rounds were found in compliance. Daily rounds conducted by the Senior Security Supervisor and medical/mental health staff rounds were logged in all of the RHU areas. Weekly programming staff rounds are also conducted in the RHU. Barbering/cosmetology services are provided in house to offenders housed in RHU. Services are provided on a weekly basis in accordance with in-house showering and hygiene scheduling.

Documentation reflect RHU visitation hours are conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays via video visitation, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise. Face to face (non-contact) visitation is expected to resume once COVID-19 protocols have been rescinded. Documentation reviewed reflect RHU offenders are afforded telephone privileges with administrative approval.

Library and law library services are offered to offenders housed in RHU. Offenders submit written requests or may submit request via kiosk located in the RHU. Requests are processed by the librarian. If authorized, requested items are forwarded to the RHU with a two (2) day return date. Items are inspected by security staff prior to and upon exiting the RHU. Tablets are also provided to offenders housed in the facility "Step Down" program. Weekly rounds are conducted by the facility Chaplain. Additional religious requests or services are provided by the Chaplain in accordance with provisions noted by security.

Documentation review reflect laundry, mail, and other related services are provided to offenders housed in RHU in accordance with the same schedule as offenders housed in general population, unless otherwise designated by security. Documentation reviewed reflect new offenders assigned directly to RHU receive written orientation and/or translations in their language. When a literacy problem exists, a staff member assists the offender in understanding material. McPherson Unit's telephone system is comprised of language line services.

Medical and mental health services are provided to all offenders housed in RHU. RHU offenders requesting medical care/assistance submit paper requests to nursing staff during daily cell to cell rounds. Documentation reflects required screenings are reviewed promptly in accordance to health care protocols. Medical staff nurses conduct medication pass (with security escort) twice daily or more often as required. Mental health staff advisors (2) conduct RHU rounds a minimum of three (3) times per week. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker conducts RHU rounds a minimum of once per week.

Meals are transported from the Food Service Department to the RHU in temperature controlled hot boxes. Offenders housed in RHU are provided the same meal and content, at the same time as offenders housed in general population. In the instance that it is officially documented that an offender's voluntary or involuntary action warrants an alternate meal, review and approval can only be authorized by the Warden/designee and Health Authority/designee.

Records reviewed confirm that the facility's classification committee review offender's status in accordance with RHU standards. Documentation notes that the average number of offenders housed in RHU per month is 81. The average number of offenders housed in Extended RHU per month is 5, and the average number of offenders housed in Special Management Unit per month is 19.

PREA signs were observed mounted throughout unit. Gloves were observed readily available for staff usage.

Environmental Conditions

McPherson Unit is a smoke-free environment. Review of facility inspection reports reflect compliance with the applicable standards relating to environmental conditions. The facility's water, sewage, and power supply is serviced by the city of Newport.

The facility's building structure was found to be in good order and properly maintained. Light levels exceeded the required standard of 20 feet at desk level and in group areas. Air circulation exceeded the 15 feet of outside or recirculated filtered air permitted per person. The audit team found the temperature within the facility to be conducive to comfort.

Noise levels throughout the facility was within acceptable limits. The audit team tested the hot and cold running water and found temperatures suitable as required. The ratio of showers, washbasins, and toilets to offenders are in compliance with state statutes and ACA standard guidelines.

The facility has a preventive maintenance program that is ongoing. In the event the facility loses power, an emergency generator are in place serving the facilities operations.

Sanitation

Sanitation throughout the facility was exceptional. The facility's attention to detail and organization has set high standards in cleanliness and efficiency. Sanitation inspections are conducted by the assigned security and Fire/Safety staff. Housekeeping plans were reviewed throughout the facility. The team observed offenders cleaning in various areas of the facility. Offenders were found to be clean, beds were made, property stored, and shoes properly placed. Housing unit furnishings were found to be clean and in good order.

Chemicals/cleaning supplies used throughout the facility are inventoried and dispensed from the Central Caustic supply room. Cleaning supplies are transported to locations throughout the facility by way of secured caustic mobile carts. Safety Data Sheets and safety equipment were located in close proximity to area. Cleaning supplies located in the housing units were limited. Inspection of supplies were found to be organized, properly stored, and inventoried. Janitorial closets with sinks and cleaning supplies were found accessible to all housing units and activity areas.

Institutional grounds were well maintained and groomed with no evidence of dumping or improper material disposal. A contract is in place for monthly pest control, recycling, and bio-hazard waste services (Stericycle). Facility first aid kits contain red bio-hazard bags for use of proper bio-hazard disposal. A maintenance prevention plan is in place ensuring follow-up with an organized system of check and balances.

Fire Safety

McPherson Unit's is protected with a hard wire smoke detection system that is monitored 24 hours a day by the Central Control. Both populated and non-populated areas are checked systematically. The fire protection system contains 1,585 wet sprinkler heads and is ready to respond to a heat build-up. McPherson's food service area is protected with sprinkler hoods over each cooking area, pilot alarm system for gas appliances and an emergency cutoff system. The alarm system is monitored from a central control panel located in Central Control. Servicing is provided by Johnson & Johnson Control Services. Last inspection was dated 10/2020.

The enunciator panels are located in Central Control and in the Maintenance area. McPherson Unit is equipped with smoke heads, duct detectors, and pull stations. Designed buildings within the facility are tested by an automatic sprinkler system which is maintained and tested quarterly. Facility fire evacuation routes are clearly and strategically posted throughout the facility.

The Newport Fire Department provide fire services to the facility. Distance is approximately 10 minutes from the facility.

Security staff are regularly trained in the use of all fire equipment including portable 86 fire extinguishers and 10 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). Fire extinguishers have been strategically placed throughout the facility. The facility contracts with a local vendor (Fire Protection of Arkansas) to provide quarterly service on all of the fire extinguishers. Facility staff was knowledgeable of the procedures for evacuating offenders from locked areas such as within the general population housing unit and the RHU. Additional training is provided in evacuation procedures, setting of a fire watch, and how to accumulate evidence after a fire. One (1) fire drill is conducted per shift, per area, per quarter. Means of egress were properly identified and unobstructed. A review of the facility's "offender orientation" handbook specifically provides fire safety instructions.

Flammables, toxic chemical were found properly stored and inventoried. Diluted products which have been pre-mixed are utilized for routine cleaning. A review of the facility cleaning supply inventories Safety Data Sheets and safety equipment were found to be organized, properly labeled, inventoried and stored.

First aid kits and AED's were strategically located throughout the facility. Eye wash stations were present, easily accessible, and with the exception of one (food service) were operational.

Due to conditions surrounding COVID protocols, the facility fire/safety annual inspection conducted by the State Fire Marshall had been temporarily delayed. Last date of inspection was 10/2019. At the time of the audit the facility was awaiting the rescheduled inspection date.

Food Service

McPherson Unit-ADC food service department is under the supervision of one (1) Food Service Production Manager, two (2) Food Service supervising staff, and one (1) fulltime Security staff. There are a total of 50 offenders assigned as food service workers. All food service managers and supervising staff are certified in ServSave procedures. The Food Service Manager provide offenders workers orientation and hands-on food service safety/sanitation training. Medical clearance is obtained on all food service offender workers prior to being placed on assignment.

Offenders housed at McPherson Unit are provided three (3) hot meals per day. If offenders are not physically in the facility at the time of the hot meals, a meal tray is set aside (refrigerated) for the offender's return. Sack lunches are prepared for the offenders assigned to offsite details. Hours of offender meal service are: 4:00am, 10:30am, and 3:30pm.

Food service tools and equipment were found secured and properly inventoried. Inspection of chemical/cleaning supplies found items organized and properly inventoried. Restroom facilities for both offenders and staff were in close proximity to all workstations. An outside vendor conducts hood suppression inspections every six (6) months.

A certified dietitian reviews and approves the master menu system. McPherson Unit food service department provides the offender an average daily caloric count of 2800. Cost of offender meal per day is \$1.00. Both general and medical diets have a four (4) week rotating menu cycle. Medical and religious diets are provided upon review and administrative approval. At the time of the audit, there were a total of 150 authorized medical diets. There is one (1) eye wash station located in the food service. Inspection of item found bottle empty. Area supervisor was instructed to address matter.

Equipment temperature inspections conducted on areas such as the tray machine, cup machine, meal transport hotboxes, freezer, cooler, and dry storage (with the exception of sanitizing station) all were found compliant and in accordance with safety standards. The food service department is inspected weekly and monthly by designated facility staff. Food service sanitizing station is being tested with test strips, but log records documenting results were not being maintained. Method of correction was discussed with area supervisor. Additional notes presented to area supervisor for correction included: boxes containing food products delivered needing to ensure delivery dates are marked on outside of box to track shelf life, recommendation was provided to place the location of the emergency gas main shutoff valve in an area visible to staff, and to ensure topic and location is addressed during orientation/training session.

Commissary services are provided to offenders housed at McPherson Unit. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8:00am until finished, except for weeks that include holidays or inventory. The commissary store is serviced under the direction of two (2) Commissary Store managers and three (3) offender store workers. Offenders may submit their commissary orders by using the kiosk located in the Barracks. A commissary order drop box is also available in each housing unit. There is a maximum of \$100.00 commissary allowance per week.

Inspection found area clean and in good order. All items sold in the commissary stores are approved by the Warden. Offenders on indigent status are provided a commissary allowance. Items allowed for purchase are limited and must be selected off of the Commissary Indigent list. Items for Indigent offenders allowed funds are approved through the Trust Fund Banking Department at the ADC Central Office.

Medical Care

McPherson Unit's medical and mental health services are provided under the authority and supervision of Wellpath Services. Its medical unit receive transfers of offenders throughout the county of Jackson as well as surrounding localities, with a history of high-risk behaviors, compounded by lack of medical care and/or mental health treatment, and are more likely to have chronic illnesses and infectious diseases. The agency maintains a multi-disciplinary staffing complement of 45, consisting of full, part time, and prn. The medical unit operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and provides after hours on-call physician coverage.

McPherson Unit's medical services are provided by the following fulltime staff: (1) Medical Director, (1) Health Services Administrator (HSA), (1) Medical Director of Nursing, (1) Dentist, (1) Certified Dental Assistants, (1) Administrative Assistant (AA), (2) Medical Record Clerks, (2) Registered Nurses (RN), (10) Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), (4) Certified Nurse Assistant, (1) Psychologist, (1) Advance Practice Registered Nurse, (2) Sub Psychiatrist, (3) Psychiatrist, (1) Administrative Assistant, (1) Licensed MSW, (1) LSW, (1) LPC, (7) Mental Health Advisors.

Additional part time and prn medical services are provided by: (1) Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, (1) Dental Hygienist, (1) Psychologist Nurse Practitioner.

McPherson Unit's medical department is comprised of one "main medical clinic, and one (1) satellite medical clinic located inside the Restrictive Housing Unit (RHU). McPherson Unit has a licensed Infirmary with the capacity to house up to 8 offender/patients in need of acute medical care.

Entering into the main medical department to the left is the Medical Storage room. Medications and working sharps are stored and dispensed from this room. Area surveillance in this room consists of panoramic camera viewing of the front entrance and corridor area. This area also contains the facility Pill call window (facing outside towards the corridor) and the Medical/Bulk Stock supply area.

A refrigerator is stationed underneath the medication and vaccination storage cabinet shelving units. The entire room is secured with additional double locked doors, secured doubled locked cabinets and medical carts with limited key access.

The Medical Security officer station is located directly in front of the Medical Storage room. The assigned security officer stationed is manned 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. To the left of the security officer station is the Dental Suite, two (2) nursing treatment rooms and the Advanced Practical Registered Nurses treatment room. One standing scale and three (3) vital sign machines with patient chairs are adjacent to these rooms. An Emergency/ X-ray room is also located in this area. To the right in this corridor is a three (3) man offender/patient observation room. This room is comprised of one (1) shower, with one toilet with a ¼ wall used to accommodate privacy.

Located across from this area is the nursing station, which maintains two inner offices consisting of the medical records room and the Director of Nursing office. An employee restroom is located within this corridor. Adjacent to the restroom is a lab where in-house CLIA waived tests are conducted and a second refrigerator is used to store lab specimens that need to be sent to an offsite lab. A shower area is located in this corridor which is shared for offender/patients housed in this area.

Recent approval has been granted for the setup of a “Chemo Infusion Room”. Until setup, this space is being temporarily used as a private room used to currently house a “total care” offender/patient. To the left of this space are two (2) man offender/patient room and one (1) isolation offender/patient room. A doorway adjacent to these rooms leads directly into the SPU. Extending to the left of this doorway is the medical employee breakroom which contains a stretcher, a medical emergency bag”, and an AED. The emergency bag is sealed with breakaway locks. Also contained within this corridor area is a second vital sign machine, a wheelchair scale, a standing scale, a medical supply room, and the bio-hazard storage room. A second two (2) man offender/patient room consisted of one (1) shower and one (1) toilet with a ¼ privacy wall is also located in this area.

The medical offender/patient waiting room is located at the end of this hallway. The waiting room capacity accommodates 20 offender/patients and has one toilet with a ¼ privacy wall. A “water” thermos is stationed in close proximity for offender use.

Privacy screens are available in each examination room to afford privacy. There is a locked and secured 911 emergency box located at the security officer station containing a “911 knife”, a camera, and a thermometer to check the temperature of the hot meals delivered and served to the medical housing areas.

Cameras are stationed and provide surveillance coverage to all main medical corridor areas. McPherson Unit's Infirmary consist of a total of eight (8) beds. This medical Infirmary does not provide negative pressure rooms/cells. The area is handicapped accessible and under constant security observation by means of 24/7 medical and security staff rounds. Records reviewed confirmed rounds were conducted by medical and security staff in accordance with medical protocol. The Nurse's station is within sight and sound of the Infirmary and isolation room areas.

McPherson Unit's medical satellite clinic located in the Restrictive Housing Unit (RHU) consist of a secured medical exam room, utilized by nursing staff for sick call, nursing call-out, etc. Room contains one (1) exam table, one (1) desk, one (1) sharp container, one (1) vital sign machine, and one (1) bio-hazard container. Routine medical provider visits are conducted weekly in the RHU. Offenders requiring additional medical services are escorted to the main medical clinic.

There is a sealed emergency "trauma" bag stored in Central Control with breakaway locks. This bag contains inventoried medical supplies to be used in the event of a major disaster.

Additional equipment and space located within the main medical clinic includes: one (1) Bio-hazard storage room consisting of infectious control and universal precaution equipment/supplies and a sterilization station, one (1) eye wash station, one (1) janitorial closet, one (1) staff restroom, one (1) Procedural room, and one (1) multi-purpose treatment room used for Ultra-sounds, Audiology, CVi, X-ray's and Optometry.

Adjacent to the "main" medical clinic is a separate wing consisting of McPherson's Mental Health department. Area is comprised of a separate offender waiting area, with additional office space with group conference rooms.

Additional 's medical services/supplies consists of the following: one (1) AED's (secured and inspected), one (1) EKG (secured and inspected), one (1) jump bag (secured and inspected), an emergency stretchers with straps (secured and inspected), one (1) transport gurney, one (1) Ob-Gyn medical cart, two (2) refrigerators (for flu, TB solutions, etc), one (1) refrigerator in Dental, one (1) refrigerator (for specimens), portable oxygen cylinders (secured and inspected), and one (1) oxygen concentrator (secured and inspected). The facility "jump bag" is checked at shift change by nurses to make sure the seal is still on and not tampered with. The inside of the bag is checked monthly. The AED is checked monthly.

McPherson Unit's medical department (Main and RHU) was found to be exceptionally clean, spacious and well equipped to care for the offenders in a private and professional environment. Safety Data Sheets are maintained on all chemicals. All were found to be organized, accurate, and properly secured. Sanitation is provided by offender orderlies with the assistance of medical. McPherson Unit provides Telemedicine services. All medical and mental health offender movement (scheduled and unscheduled) were found to be orderly and conducted in a secure manner. Refrigerators were observed clean and in order with records of temperature check logs monitored daily. Evidence of regular equipment checks for accuracy and calibration were well documented. Inspection of the McPherson Unit's emergency equipment contents found items to be properly inventoried (weekly), well organized, and readily available for emergent situations. McPherson Unit's "main" medical department is serviced by one (1) generator.

McPherson Unit's medical department nursing staff hours consist of two (2) 12-hour shifts: First shift 6:00am – 6:00pm, Second shift – 6:00pm – 6:00am. Medical provider hours are scheduled Monday – Friday from 6:00am – 4:30pm. Medical hours of operation are scheduled – Monday – Friday from 6:00am – 4:00pm.

When it is determined that an offender requires a higher level of care or services not provided at the facility, the offender is transported to Unity Harris Hospital, which is approximately 5 minutes from the facility. Auxiliary and/or emergent medical services are provided by Unity Hospital in Searcy, which is approximately 45 minutes away, or White River in Batesville, which is also approximately 45 minutes away.

White River Ambulance, Inc provides ambulatory services with an average response time of 15-20 minutes. There is a vast location adjacent to the facility which during instances of emergency could serve as a "helicopter pad". McPherson's medical staff are trained annually in CPR, AED, First Aid and are considered "First Responders". McPherson conducts quarterly simulated drills to test the facilities medical emergency response. Documentation confirms emergency response as under 4 minutes.

Offenders are provided instructions and direction on how to access sick call upon arrival at the facility, at the time of the orientation, upon receipt acknowledgement of offender Handbook, at the end of the health appraisal, and a fourth time at the conclusion of each sick call visit.

All offenders access sick call by submitting sick call slip in the locked Sick call box. Sick call slips are collected and triaged nightly, by the designated nurse using nursing protocol/guidelines. Nurses sick call hours are conducted at the McPherson, seven (7) days per week during the hours of 7:00am – 6:00pm for General Population, and twice per day (morning and afternoon) for the Restrictive Housing Unit (RHU). Provider sick call hours are conducted 5 days per week during the hours of 6:30am – 4:30pm. Urgent requests are seen within 24 hours of submission, and routine requests are seen within 72 hours. Medical rounds are conducted on a daily basis in the Restrictive Housing Unit and Infirmary. A medical assessment by medical staff is conducted on all offenders who are placed in restraints. McPherson Unit's medical clinic receives approximately 30 sick call requests daily, and approximately 118 sick call requests monthly.

Offenders are assessed a \$3.00 medical co-pay fee for offender initiated medical or dental services. A \$3.00 fee is also charged for initial contact with health services due to a fight, sports injury, or self-inflicted injury not associated with mental illness. No fee is charged for diagnosis and treatment of communicable disease; chronic care of other staff-initiated care, including follow-up and referral visits. No offenders will be denied medical care due to an inability to pay.

Pill call schedule for General Population is Monday thru Sunday, 3:00am, 9:00am, 3:00pm, and 9:00pm. Pill call schedule for Restrictive Housing Unit is 9:00am, 3:00pm, and 9:00pm. A special designated time is scheduled for offenders that require medication more frequent. Offenders requiring this service (diabetics, etc) have designated times to report to medical and do not report to pill call window. During Pill call hours there is one security officer station at the window providing confirmation of identity of offender prior to issuance of medication. During Pill call there are two (2) nurses on duty that administers medication, diabetic sticks and insulin. Medications are administered as direct observation therapy or nurse administered therapy. All no shows or refusals to medications are documented and/or referred for further medical review and assessment. Offenders are permitted Keep on Person (KOP) medications. There is a limited supply of Over the Counter (OTC) medication available in the Commissary for purchase by the offender. During daily Pill call, there is an average of 719 offenders authorized medication. A designated nurse (with security escort) conducts Pill call to the offenders housed in the Restrictive Housing Unit. Morning pill call lines were observed and found to be secure, concise, and orderly.

McPherson's offenders are screened and treated on a variety of chronic illnesses and are provided with education related to their illness during each chronic disease visit. As this is the reception center for females housed within the division, routine testing includes a pregnancy test, hepatitis C test, HIV tests and syphilis test.

Offenders are also scheduled for the following off-site Specialty Care Clinics as needed: Respiratory, Hematology/Oncology, Cardiac, Endocrine, Ent, Immunity, Neurology, General and Oral Surgery, Gastrointestinal, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Orthopedic, and Infectious Disease, Dermatology, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Urology, OB-GYN, Vascular Access and Wound Care. The average time frame from request until seen by the physician is 7 to 10 days. The monthly average number of offsite chronic illness contacts are 53. Dialysis clinics are provided off site. At the time of this audit, there were six (6) offenders receiving diabetic services.

Additional on-site Specialty Clinics include Cardiovascular, Endocrine, Gastrointestinal, Immunity, Optometry, Neurology, Oncology, OB-GYN, Respiratory, Tuberculosis. For the past 12 months there were a total of 975 onsite/offsite offender/patient specialty consults completed.

McPherson Unit's dental area is under the supervision of one (1) Dentist, and two (2) Dental Assistants, and one (1) Dental Hygienist. Dental services are provided and triaged through the medical sick call process. The Dental department maintains two (2) dental bays, two (2) dental chairs, a dental lab, a dark x-ray room, a sterilization /equipment room, and a janitorial closet. Dental services are provided five (5) days per week during the hours of 5:30am – 4:00pm. The wait time for dental services requests are 72 hours from date of receipt, with the exception of emergencies. Some of the dental services provided are: fillings, dental screening, hygiene education, routine x-rays, stainless steel crowns, cleaning, root canals, dentures, and other restorative surgeries. A check of all dental tools and sharps were conducted. The inventories were found to be accurate and up to date. Spore tests are performed weekly and there is a corresponding log as well as results on file. The Dental suite is equipped with an analog dental bitewing x-ray machines, an auto clave, an amalgamator and curing light, a dental compressor machine, a cavitron with a mounted x-ray head, a dental vacuum machine, an ultrasonic machine, an x-ray developer, and a stone grinder. Broken tools are documented and disposed of by facility maintenance. Sterilization procedures are monitored twice daily and were found compliant with state and federal standards. McPherson's dental clinic receives approximately 10 sick call requests monthly. There was a total of 867 dental treatment plans conducted within the past 12 months.

McPherson Unit meets necessary American Disability Act (ADA) standards, including accessible paths of travel, ramps, and TTY (Text Telephones) phones. Unit telephones with volume controls, and Language line access are provided in various areas of the facility as well as in the housing units. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) instructions/informational signs were observed posted in various locations within the facility.

Medical/Mental health intake screening is conducted immediately upon the inmate arrival at the facility. Medical/Mental health orientation is conducted during the facility weekly orientation. Language line services, inmate handbook/orientation material (in Spanish) are provided to inmates with limited or non-English speaking capabilities. A midlevel provider is available onsite 24/hours/7 days per week, a physician is available 40 hours per week, and the HSA is on call 24 hours/7 days per week. Health appraisals are conducted 14 days of the inmate arrival by a qualified, licensed provider. Detoxification services are not provided. McPherson Unit's offenders arriving in need of these services are immediately transferred to a facility offering these programs.

McPherson Unit does not operate a "pharmacy" but has a Medication supply/Pill room. This medication supply/pill room is located within an area contained behind a secured locked screen door, with two (2) additional solid secured doors.

Prescribed medications are ordered from Diamond Pharmacy and delivered through the UPS within 24 to 48 hours. The backup pharmacy is through the local Darling Pharmacy. The storage/supply/pill room inventory is counted and verified monthly. A review of the proper disposal of expired medication were found to be accurate and in order. Unused medication is not returned for credit but are shipped to a designated vendor (Advantra Waste Solution) for destruction. Routine quarterly audits are conducted. Upon release and/or discharge from the facility offenders are provided a 30-day supply of medication. There is a process of a two (2) party nursing team count conducted on all medication, with the daily updated information reflected on the inventory log. When a nurse arrives for or leaves a shift, a count of all area sharps are completed by the first nurse with a second recount by the second nurse. Sharps are always locked up while not in use. Review of a number of sharp counts found all to be properly inventoried and in order. The auditor reviewed the Medical Appraisal and Revalidation System (MARS) for appropriate signatures and missed doses. All documents were found accurate and in order.

Medical complaints and grievances are submitted using the grievance process. The Grievance Coordinator responds to all grievances through the HSA. Step I and Step II grievances are addressed within the facility, Step III grievances are addressed and responded to by the Directors Office. The average number of medical grievances processed monthly – 90 informal/19 formal. The average number of grievances per year is – 1086 informal/229 formal.

McPherson Unit's medical records are electronic. A sample review of McPherson's offender medical records found documents concise, accurate, and well organized. A sample review of McPherson's medical license, registrations, and random inventory of sharps and instruments found all inspected to be accurate.

Records (2019) reflected corrective action was taken to address one nurse working with a license that had lapsed. Corrective action involved nurse placed under suspension. Upon confirmation of license renewal, staff was returned back to work.

Radiology services (X-Press) are provided twice per week to offenders housed at McPherson. Lab Corp provide onsite lab services at the main medical clinic. There is a dedicated printer for lab results which are processed and received the next day. STAT labs are processed via email or fax as soon as possible. There is one locked and secured Lab Corp courier container located at the front entrance of the facility. Key access is limited only to the McPherson medical staff and authorized Lab Corp courier.

McPherson Unit's medical has a plan for the management of communicable diseases including education on prevention, diagnosis, and isolation. Communicable disease and outbreaks are investigated and managed on-site, and reports are provided to the health department. MRSA precautions are in place. When the needs of the offenders are beyond the capabilities of the facility, referrals are made to a contracted hospital. Blood borne pathogen kits are stored in the medical clinic as well as in each housing unit. Offender workers assigned to provide laundering services have been trained to take precautions to control or prevent the spread of infectious disease. Offenders are provided annual TB test at no cost. TB tests are also offered to McPherson's staff, but are not mandatory. Infectious control training is provided to all medical staff annually.

McPherson's medical and mental health staff receive annual CPR, First Aid, and routine fire drill training. McPherson's medical clinic oversees the contents, restocking, inventory and control of the facility AED, Blood-spill and First aid kits. There is one (1) AED located on the facility compound. First aid kits, and fire extinguishers are strategically located throughout the facility proper and satellite areas. Blood spill kits are maintained within each housing unit. There are a total of four (4) eye wash stations located throughout the facility (medical/maintenance, gym/commissary area, and food service). With the exception of one (1 – food service) all were operable, easily accessible and readily available. The one eye wash station located in the food service area need refill. There was no solution in bottled container therefore unable to be used during instance of emergency. Deficiency reported to area supervisor to address.

Monthly teleconference meetings are conducted with the facility HSA, Director, Assistant Director, Facility Compliance staff, and the Department Heads. Meetings consist of Quality Control, Patient Safety and other such related topics. Additional outside and independent audit inspections are conducted quarterly and/or annually on McPherson's medical operations. These inspections include: Wellpath Central Office Pharmacy (Medication Supply Room) and the Arkansas Department of Health (Infirmary license review).

All medical waste is properly bagged and stored in biohazard room located in the medical clinic. Monthly pickups and disposals are under the responsibility of the contracting (Stericycle) bio-hazard waste agency.

Medical diets allow for offenders to develop good eating habits. Requests for Therapeutic diets are processed through the medical department. All requests are reviewed by the assigned facility Dietitian and forwarded to the HSA for approval. Currently, McPherson Unit maintains a list of offenders approved and are assigned Special/Medical diets. There are a total of two (2) Special/Medical requests processed monthly.

Offenders access mental health services through the medical sick call kite process. Offenders can also be referred by facility staff and/or shift supervisors. Offenders are provided service within five (5) days from the date of kite submission, or sooner if emergent. Emergency mental health problems are addressed by on-call staff 24 hours per day/7 days per week. The on-call staff will conduct a risk assessment, and if deemed necessary, the offender will be placed on a “treatment precaution” status in one of the observation rooms located in the main medical clinic.

If an offender states that he will harm himself during regular business hours, he is seen by the Mental Health staff, when mental health staff arrive on grounds, medical will evaluate inmate using established mental health crisis protocol. The Suicide Assessment Five-step Evaluation and Triage (SAFE-T) process is used to assist in addressing the offender’s critical needs. If placed on “treatment precaution” status the level of observation is constant, unless otherwise ordered by the Mental Health provider. All orders are received by Mental Health. Observations of security/medical/mental health and counseling staff rounds documentation are noted in the “Watch log”. Under strict mental health instructions offenders are provided a safety apparel/items, one (1) safety pillow, one (1) safety mattress, one (1) safety blanket, one (1) safety gown, one (1) safety smock, and paper cutlery (spoons). Reading material, and one (1) safety helmet may be authorized/ordered depending on the situation. Offenders are temporarily housed on this status until a determination is made that either offender is to return back to general population or that an immediate transfer is needed which will be coordinated through the Mental Health Supervisor.

Mental health staff at McPherson Unit provides a comprehensive range of mental health services throughout the facility. These services include evaluation and assessment, case management, counseling, crisis management, psychiatric care, monitoring of medication compliance, psychological testing, and follow up for inmates in the Restrictive Housing Unit. At the time of this audit, the monthly average of Mental Health contacts is 400. Out of this number, 126 offenders are SMI diagnosed and are under the psychiatrist direct care. At the time of the audit, there was approximately 379 offenders authorized psychotropic medications.

Additional mental health programs offered are: Crisis Intervention, Anger Management, Group Counseling, Dual Diagnosis, Sex Offender Female Treatment (SOFT) Program, Multi-Disciplinary programming, and Individual Treatment plans. Additional programming includes Substance Abuse Treatment/Therapeutic Community programming. At the time of the audit, due to COVID precautions, self-help study groups have been added to the programming curriculum. Tele-psych services are provided at McPherson as needed. Mental health staff conduct rounds in the Restrictive Housing Unit weekly.

McPherson's mental health department also provides services to a forty (40) bed Residential Program Unit (RPU), housing offenders requiring individual assistance with behavioral, social and mental health issues in an intense setting. While the goal is to return offenders back into general population, some will remain in RPU for long term care. McPherson RPU is the only Residential Program Unit for female offenders in the Arkansas Division of Corrections.

Offenders requiring mental health services are seen by a physician once every three (3) months or more often as needed. The psychiatrist meets with every inmate on psychotropic medications at least every 90 days, or more often as needed. The total number of offender "contacts" (routine caseload/emergent/referrals, etc) by Mental Health per month is approximately 400.

All McPherson Unit's employees receive annual suicide prevention training. The facility HSA and Mental Health Supervisor provides annual medical training. Training is conducted both onsite and online. New hires receive required 40 hours of facility wide training. Additional staff receive additional medical training based on position.

Recreation

McPherson Unit provides a variety of recreational opportunities for the offender population. The recreational department is under the supervision of one (1) civilian recreational staff and one (1) security officer. Two (2) offender recreational workers also assist with scheduled activities. On the weekend security staff provide assistance as needed on the weekends and with larger events. The facility has a large outdoor recreational field, and an indoor gymnasium with two basketball courts.

Outdoor recreational activities include: a full basketball court, a workout station, soccer, toss bag, a sand volleyball pit, a walking area, and exercise space. Indoor recreational activities include: table games, two basketball courts, a handball court, volleyball, a ping pong table, and a workout station.

The recreation department schedules special holiday events during major holidays such as Memorial Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are leagues throughout the year such as basketball, softball, volleyball, etc. Organized and informal events such as tournaments are held with monetary prizes given to the winners. A community-based program known as “Dance 2 Be Free”, in which volunteers teach contemporary dancing to offender participants.

Due to COVID precautions, group and other related recreational activities had been temporarily suspended. At the time of this audit, in accordance with CDC protocol, facility operations were gradually returning back to normal operations.

Religious Programming

McPherson Unit provides a variety of religious services, which are supervised and coordinated by the fulltime licensed Chaplain. Volunteer clergy and community churches assist the Chaplain in the provisions of services. The Chaplain also serves at the facility Volunteer Coordinator. There are a total of 35 volunteers assisting in providing special services at this facility. The Chaplain provides religious literature and resource material to offenders housed at McPherson upon request.

McPherson Unit religious programming offer services for Non-Denominational, Islamic/Muslim, Jehovah Witness, Catholic, Church of Christ, Baptist and Mennonite studies. Services are conducted in accordance with facility wide program scheduling. Pre-COVID, musical presentations were provided by religious volunteer organizations. Services and activities are conducted in the facility visitation and classroom areas.

The McPherson Unit Chaplaincy program coordinates the facility’s “Principle Application of Life (PAL)” Program. An exceptional opportunity, this 12-month program assist offenders in learning to apply the principles of faith-based materials for everyday life skills. McPherson Unit 3 houses all offenders enrolled in the P.A.L. program. Established as a self-sufficient community-based environment, curriculum studies include: Institute of Self-Worth, Life Skill lessons dealing with parenting, overcoming adversity, leadership, character qualities, and Basic Life Principles.

Additional Chaplaincy programs includes the Story Book Project under which offenders read stories to their children. Books for this project are supplied by the Cherokee Village Lutheran church. Programming is conducted four (4) times each year. Books and tapes are then sent to the designated child or children.

Additional religious programs include: Abortion Support Recovery, Alcoholic Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous.

At the time of the audit, due to COVID-19 precautions, a number of religious programs, and services were temporarily suspended. In lieu of these circumstances, the Chaplain conducts video services in conjunction with related spiritually inspired movies.

Offender Work Programs

McPherson Unit offenders are required to work with the exception of this who for security, educational, or medical reasons are unable to do so. Some offenders arrive with technical and vocational skills that make them employable to routine institutional operations. Hands on experience assists them in learning marketable skills transferable to the community.

Routine work assignments at McPherson Unit include the usual found in a correctional setting such as sanitation, barbershop/cosmetology, food service, laundry, photographer, clerks, educational tutors, landscape, library aides, recreation, and maintenance. Offenders are not provided monetary wage reimbursements, nor are offenders charged for basic hygiene items, meals, nor laundry services.

McPherson Unit's offender field squads participate in agricultural and gardening programming. The Garden and Bee Operations are comprised of both McPherson and Grimes Unit offender workers. Honey is also produced at this operation. These offender field squads are responsible for providing hay and vegetables, to Grimes, McPherson, and several other Units around the area. A combined total of 60 offenders from McPherson/Grimes Units currently are assigned to this gardening project.

The Prison Industry Enhancement (P.I.E.) Certification Program located on the grounds of the McPherson/Grimes Unit provide selected offenders the opportunity to work and receive hands on marketable vocational skills. In lieu of monetary wages, offenders employed receive good time with a percentage of offender's salary going towards family support and to the ADC for room and board expenses. The offenders assemble wiring harnesses and cable for SemahTronix, a company based in Flippin, Arkansas. This program is an innovative partnership between private enterprise and the Arkansas Division of Corrections (ADC). ADC provides SemahTronix with a 22,000 square foot, state of the art manufacturing facility, in return for providing gainful employment for approximately 5% of the offenders at the McPherson Unit. A total of 34 McPherson Unit offenders are currently employed in this P.I.E. certification program.

Academic and Vocational Education

McPherson Unit's academic and vocational educational program provides comprehensive educational training for offenders which enables them to be employed upon release from prison.

The Arkansas Correctional School is responsible for providing educational services at the McPherson Unit.

In 1997, the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) Board adopted compulsory school attendance for all offenders who did not have a verified high school diploma or GED. Students are placed in classes according to their scores achieved on a prescribe placement test. A computer lab is used to supplement classroom instruction. The curriculum is designed to help students obtain their GED. The GED is administered on computer approximately every four (4) to six (6) weeks while school is in session. While incarcerated in the ADC all offenders, regardless of age, are required to attend school unless they can provide verification of an accredited High School Diploma or GED. There is a total of 37 computers available for students in the academic program.

This academic educational program is supervised by one (1) school principal, teaching instructors with one (1) Special Education/Title I instructor. At the time of the audit there were at total of 243 offenders enrolled in academic educational programming (GED, Pre-GED, Intermediate). In 2020-2021 there were a total of 18 offenders that successfully completed the program.

McPherson Unit also provides offenders the opportunity to participate in college classes through Arkansas State University – Newport campus. Courses offered include: welding program.

McPherson Unit vocational program is comprised of several Technical Certification courses. Job skills training programs are developed and managed by Riverside Vo-Tech and funded through the Department of Workforce Education. The McPherson Unit vocational program consists of four (4) courses: Computerized Accounting, Cosmetology, Horticulture, and Office Technology.

The number of offenders enrolled in the vocational program is 53, the number successfully completing vocational program with certificate is 17.

Barbering/Cosmetology services are provided offenders housed in general population and RHU, six (6) days per week in accordance with coordinated housing schedules. RHU barbering/cosmetology services are conducted in the unit during shower call. Tools and equipment are issued out of laundry services. Inspection of items were found to be properly inventoried, organized, sanitized and clean.

Social Services

Upon arrival at McPherson Unit an individualized program is developed to assist offenders with the oversight of their sentences, classifications, housing assignments and other needs. In addition, staff from various departments utilizes a number of treatment modalities to facilitate the provision of substance abuse and other related treatment services. Such services include:

Substance Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) which follows a therapeutic community treatment model. The SATP, a six (6) to twelve (12) week program is divided into three (3) phases to include orientation and education, comprehensive treatment, and relapse prevention. The primary goal of the program is to eliminate negative patterns of behavior, thinking and feelings that predispose the participant toward substance abuse. The program utilizes the dynamics of peer group culture as a teaching and training tool to further program objectives. Good time is earned for treatment completion. The program is voluntary but may be mandated by the Arkansas Post Prison Transfer Board as a condition of parole. In 2020-2021, there was a total of 144 offenders enrolled in the program with a total of 117 successfully completing the program.

Therapeutic Community (TC) is a nine (9) to twelve (12) month minimum, comprehensive residential substance abuse treatment program using a modified therapeutic community model in a residential setting. In 2020-2021, there was a total of 75 offenders entered into the program, and a total of 34 offenders successfully completing the program.

Think Legacy Program is a voluntary six (6) to eighteen (18) month program focusing on Employment Readiness, Community Resources, Social Skill Readiness, Mentoring, Cognitive Behavior Awareness through “Thinking for a Change, Victim Impact, Budgeting Life Skills, Healthy Relationships, and Family Reunification. In 2020-2021, there was a total of 110 offenders enrolled in the program with a total of 35 successfully completing the program.

Offenders housed in Housing Unit 3 are all under the concept of “therapeutic community” programming. Offenders enrolled in the SATP, TC, and the Think Legacy Program are housed in this area.

Additional social service programming provided include: Thinking Errors, Anger Management, Victims of Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence (Perpetrators), Substance Abuse Education (S.A.E.), Parenting Skills, Communication Skills, Stress Management, the Principle Application of Life (PAL) Program, Re Entry Planning, the P.A.W.S. program (dog program) and the Offender Tablet Program.

McPherson Unit also provides a varied hobby craft program consisting of: crocheting, painting, drawings, diamond dots, cross stitch, and coloring cards.

The Tablet Program is a low-cost monthly subscription service that provides friends and family members the opportunity to lease a tablet device for their loved ones serving time in prison. Offenders must meet eligibility requirements and follow established rules. The tablets allow housed offenders the capability to listen to music, read books, play games, and search for jobs. Subject to rules governing the offender phone system, offenders can also utilize the tablet to place phone calls.

Visitation

McPherson Unit provides onsite and video visitation twice per week. Visiting hours are scheduled on Saturday, Sunday, and all legal holidays. Onsite visits hours are from 11:30am – 3:30pm. Video visitation hours are from 4:00pm – 10:00pm. A detailed schedule provides contact and noncontact visitation hours to all offenders housed within the facility. Attorney, clergy, and special visits are accommodated upon prior request and approval.

At the time of the audit due to COVID-19 precautions, onsite visits were “temporarily” suspended. In lieu of these precautions, video visitation remain and are available during scheduled hours. At the time of the audit, video visitation hours are scheduled from 8:30am – 10:25pm. Tablets are available to accommodate offender video visitation.

McPherson Unit’s visitation room is designed to facilitate both contact and noncontact visits and is equipped with six (6) noncontact booths. The visiting room consists of a large spacious area. There are restrooms, and informational bulletin board accessible to visitors. Vending machines are available and visitors are allowed to bring in money to purchase items during the visits. With the exception of emergency medication, visitors are required to maintain personal items in vehicle. McPherson Unit does not provide an outdoor face to face visitation area. There is a small children’s area located in the visitation room.

Telephone usage systems for offenders housed at McPherson Unit are not restricted (unless security provisions dictate otherwise). Offenders housed at McPherson Unit have access to institutional offender telephones in each housing unit area. All offender telephones have “language line” access. Emergency phone calls are also permitted upon administrative approval. A facility TTY machine is onsite and available upon request.

The offender Barracks are equipped with two (2) offender telephones, two (2) television viewing areas, and tables with seats for letter writing or the pursuit of board games. Each Barracks is also equipped with Kiosk where offenders electronically fill out commissary orders, conduct video visitations, and submit sick call requests.

McPherson Unit mailroom procedures are comprised of five (5) authorized delivery components: general correspondence and packages, Keefe Secure Access mail, Inter-Unit Correspondence, privileged correspondence, and publications.

McPherson Unit's mailroom operational services provide a six (6) day per week schedule and is conducted under the direction of one (1) civilian supervisor and three (3) civilian mailroom assistants. Each of the six (6) days, offenders receive incoming mail and are afforded the opportunity to send out mail. Incoming email provided through Keefe Company for a fee is in operation. Offenders are able to receive their email, photos, and/or text straight onto their MP4 player purchased through the unit commissary after it has been screened.

Library Services

McPherson Unit library services are under the supervision of the facility Program Specialists. Offender workers are assigned to assist with library services. The facility librarian provides hands on training to the general and law library offender clerks.

McPherson Unit library services are provided seven (7) days per week. Hours of operation are scheduled to accommodate morning, afternoon as well as evening availability. The library schedule provides offenders access to library services at a minimum, once per week. Special library accommodations are provided to offenders housed in RHU. These special accommodations conducted on Tuesday and Thursdays are reviewed and screened by library and administrative security staff prior to approval. The law library provides assistance to offenders on legal issues seven (7) days per week by appointment.

McPherson Unit is part of the interagency library loan program. At the time of the audit there were no requests for library loan material. McPherson Unit library inventory consists of 5,569 books, with a total of 200 books added and 200 books removed. Additional library inventory include: 20 magazines, 85 – fiction HB, 244 fiction – PB, 25 non-fiction HB, and 78 non-fiction PB. McPherson maintains a limited supply of large print books for offenders needing special accommodation materials. Additional library material and booklets are available for offenders having limited English-speaking capabilities. Offenders may check out items for a period of two (2) weeks.

The facility general library maintains three (3) computers: one (1) for the general library, one (1) for the law library, and one (1) for the Librarian. Legal assistance services are available to offenders who are unable to do their own legal work. The Lexis computer program provides assistance to offenders with legal issues and a law library offender clerk is assigned with typing documents. Law library tablets are also available to check in and out while in the law library. The computerized system is supplemental with some hard copy legal materials specific to the Arkansas legal system.

Offenders access library services through written library request. Upon receipt offenders are placed on the library callout list and are allowed 15 minutes per library visit. Request from offenders housed in RHU are processed through the Librarian. The library clerks obtain requested books, items are screened and approved by librarian and delivered to RHU with a two (2) day turnaround for pickup. Housing unit staff will inspect all library material for contraband prior to delivery and upon exiting from RHU.

All law library requests will be available upon request and must show a valid proof of need. All law library requests are by appointment only. Requests for law library services are processed to the Program Specialists.

Laundry

McPherson Unit provides a centralized laundry operation which is located on the secure compound. Laundry services are under the supervision of one (1) Laundry Supervisor. At the time of the audit, there were a total of eight (8) offender workers assigned to laundry services.

Offenders housed at McPherson Unit are issued 3 sets of state issued clothing, 3 sets of undergarments, and 3 pair of socks. The undergarments are inventoried and exchanged twice each year. State clothing and personal laundry bags are washed/exchanged on a daily basis. Linen is washed/exchanged on a weekly basis. Blankets are washed/exchanged on a quarterly basis. Additional laundering services provided consists of: mops and barber shop and cleaning rags.

During intake, offenders are provided indigent packets as well as clothing allotment and bedding. Each inmate is provided an orientation packet and Inmate Handbook for reference. They are also provided an ample supply of feminine products at no cost to the offender. Hygiene issue is provided to all offenders on a weekly basis.

Offender workers providing laundering services are trained to take precautions to control or prevent the spread of infectious disease. McPherson Unit does not maintain a bio-hazard team. Water soluble bags available for use. Bio-hazard material is stored in the medical bio-hazard room and then transported to the outside bio-hazard building for pickup. Bio-hazard material is picked up every two (2) weeks.

McPherson Unit's large equipment consist of: 5 commercial washers and 4 commercial dryers. Inspection of all equipment found a total of two (2) washers inoperable and in need of repair. Request for repair was reported to area supervisor to address. Maintenance conducts weekly equipment temperature checks. Lint traps and exhaust vents are cleaned on a daily basis.

Chemicals are automatically dispensed into the machines. Inspection of inventory and issuance logs were found accurate and in order. Items containing bio-hazard waste are properly secured and placed in the facilities designated bio-hazard container for proper disposal.

The laundry services provide indigent packages to offenders classified as indigent. The laundry services also include one offender seamstress worker. Assignment includes sewing unit trash bags used in RPU, and unit shower curtains. Class A tools located in area all were found properly inventoried and accounted for.

Other Programs/Mitigating Circumstances affecting the Quality of Life

McPherson Inmate Council

The purpose of this organization is to serve as a viable tool that will increase the level of credibility with both the offender population and the unit administration. It also serves as a means of inter-communication between the offender population and the unit administration.

Any permanently assigned offender of the McPherson Unit population who has maintained a Class I-C status for six (6) months and no less than eighteen (18) months to her transfer eligibility date shall be considered for membership of this council. Assigned offenders meet on a monthly basis with administrative staff to discuss questions and/or concerns presented.

The Board of Directors of this Council consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Ways and Means, and Parliamentarian. The facility Program Specialists serves as volunteer staff assisting the committee in the coordination, approval and oversight of its projects and assignments. Office space has been provided to accommodate committee operations.

Inmate Council at the McPherson Unit (pre-Covid-19) was involved with many projects sponsored at the facility.

One such project includes the facility picture project where by offenders are able to purchase photos of themselves which are shared with their families. This outreach project help to build relationship and strengthen bonds with families providing hope to the offender population.

The audit team had the opportunity to meet and conduct interviews with the following offender representatives of McPherson Inmate Council: President, the Vice President and the Council Secretary.

Representatives interviewed voice positive comments of the Inmate Council. It was apparent that the representatives not only enjoyed working with the council, but obviously enjoyed working with the team of staff as well. The representatives voiced ways in which they continue to work with staff to make the facility and its population a positive as well as cohesive environment. The representative expressed their sincere appreciation for being selected as members of the committee.

Coronavirus Pandemic

Since the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Arkansas Division of Correction has worked diligently in the prevention, detection, and mitigation of COVID-19 within each of the Division's facilities. Methods such as staff and offenders wearing masks, staff undergoing temperature monitoring at entrance points of the Unit, offender temperature screening upon entering the chow hall, staff reporting any fever, body aches, pains, or coughs to their supervisor, increased staff use of personal protective equipment, and increased hand sanitizing stations were all implemented in the early stages of the pandemic.

In October 2020, the Arkansas Division of Correction started a new initiative to ensure the safety of employees as well as the offender population in the battle against the coronavirus. Each employee or visitor entering the McPherson Unit submit to a COVID-19 rapid antigen test weekly. Administrative staff and security personnel will be tested on their first workday of every week. Any staff testing positive and who are symptomatic, will be sent home for the appropriate quarantine period as designated by the Center for Disease Control. Asymptomatic staff who test positive are permitted to work in positive quarantine areas upon the Warden's approval.

In January 2021, the McPherson Unit received its first set of vaccines available for staff. Vaccine clinics were schedule and all staff who wished to receive the vaccine, received both shots of the Pfizer vaccination. Staff inoculation was completed in early February 2021. Wellpath and Arkansas Division of Corrections are currently working with the government agencies to define the protocols and implementation of the offender vaccine clinics.

When the McPherson Unit experiences an active COVID-19 offender, the facility uses the guidelines set forth by the Arkansas Division of Correction administration, the Arkansas Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control. These protocols have evolved since the beginning of the pandemic but involve quarantining positive living areas from the rest of other necessities are delivered to the barracks. The exposed group is tested regularly until they have two consecutive negative Polymerase Chain Reaction tests. Once this occurs, the exposed group is considered negative and will be assimilated back into general population.

F. Examination of Records

Following the facility tour, the team proceeded to the conference room to review the accreditation files and evaluate compliance levels of the policies and procedures. The facility has no notices of non-compliance with local, state, or federal laws or regulations.

1. Litigation

Over the last three years, the facility had no consent decrees, class action lawsuits or adverse judgments.

2. Significant Incidents/Outcome Measures

The Significant Incident Summary and Healthcare Outcome Measures were reviewed for the past 3 years with the Healthcare Administrative Team. Documentation appears to be consistent with a facility of this size and nature. Further review finds no additional issues of concern in this report.

3. Departmental Visits

Team members revisited the following departments to review conditions relating to departmental policy and operations:

<u>Department Visited</u>	<u>Person(s) Contacted</u>
Medical RHU/RPU Barracks 19 (BK)	Judy Baiza, Director of Nursing Warden Faust
Laundry Intake Maintenance Food Service Programs/School/Vo-Tech	Sgt Johnson Maritza Caver Mr. Hall, Maintenance staff Corporal Boozy/Corporal Sutterfield/Captain Davis Corporal C. Jackson/Mrs. Boone-Instructor/ Mrs. Fuller – Instructor
Classification Inmate Beauty Shop Chapel/Chaplains Office Mental Health Central Control Gym/Commissary Housing Unit 3 Housing Unit 2 Housing Unit 1 Armory Range/Perimeter Vehicle Library	Jeannie Long John Sparks, Sergeant Nicole Lang, Chaplain Lori Reeves, Soft-Alan Rogers Corporal Robins/Corporal Crossfield Clara Robinson/Bobbie Huffman-Supvsrs

Locksmith Shop
Mailroom Kristy Smith, Mailroom Supvsr
ISS Area
Fusion Center/STTG Corrina Owens, Sergeant

4. Shifts

a. Day/Afternoon Shift (5:45am – 6:00pm)

The team was present at the facility on the day/afternoon shift on the first day of the audit from 12:30pm to 6:00pm, on the second day of the audit from 8:00am to 4:30pm, and on the third day of the audit from 8:25am to 11:00am.

During this time the audit team participated in the Entrance Session, toured the facility, reviewed the electronic files, observed medication pass, observed security shift change, and conducted staff and offender interviews. Also, during this time period the audit team participated in the Closing Session.

b. Evening/Night Shift (5:45pm – 6:00am)

The team was present at the facility on the evening/night shift on the first day of the audit from 5:45pm to 7:30pm.

During this time period, the audit team tested a sample meal tray. The meal was warm, palatable, colorful and the content did appear to meet all nutritional requirements. Also, during this time period the audit team observed both security and medical shift change, reviewed the electronic files, and conducted staff and offender interviews.

5. Status of Previously Non-compliant Standards/Plans of Action

The team reviewed the status of standards previously found non-compliant, for which a waiver was not granted, and found the following:

Standard #4-ACI-4052 (5-ACI-1C-05)– at the time of the audit the vacancy rate at the McPherson Unit continued to exceed the 10% eighteen (18) month allowed period for authorized positions working directly with offenders. The status of this non-compliant standard was reviewed, and the facility has submitted the following response:

Plan of Action

We challenge all staff at the McPherson Unit to recruit prospective employees. We have also extended an open opportunity once a week for applicants to become potential new employees by directly visiting the McPherson Unit Human Resource staff that assist them through the application process. The McPherson Unit employees have been encouraged to work as a team to assist with recruitment efforts through various methods such as conducting job fairs in the community and surrounding areas. The McPherson Unit also uses social media to disseminate information about employment opportunities. The McPherson Unit offers an incentive program to current staff members for referring new employees. The Arkansas Division of Correction has a website (www.arcareers.arkansas.gov) that lists all available jobs and an on-line application process to aid all interested parties in seeking employment at the ADC.

Task

- a. Retain staff
- b. Process available applicants
- c. Mentor all staff in developing the skills needed for a career with the ADC

Responsible Agency

- a. Human Resource Administrator
- b. Human Resource Staff
- c. Warden and Human Resource Manager

Assigned Staff

- a. Human Resource Administration Staff
- b. Unit Human Resource Manager

Anticipated Completion Date

- a. 2024 ACA Audit or sooner

G. Interviews

During the course of the audit, team members met with both staff and offenders to verify observations and/or to clarify questions concerning facility operations.

1. Offender Interviews

The audit team interviewed 68 offenders. A positive and respectful attitude was observed throughout the facility. Most offenders interviewed voiced that they felt safe at the facility. Offenders voiced positive comments on the type of programming and services provided at the facility. Offenders stated that they have access to medical care. Offenders voiced that during crisis instances they are afforded the opportunity to discuss concerns in confidence. Offenders stated they are provided access to mail, library, religious and mental health services. Offenders expressed that they do have easy access to the grievance process. Offenders interviewed stated that meals served at the facility was okay.

ACA provided the audit team two (2) interview requests to be conducted from the McPherson Unit. Results of findings are:

- Offender Shandi Martin. Request was presented 7/23/2018. At the time of this audit the team member was unable to conduct interview. Offender paroled to Hot Springs, Arkansas, on 2/27/2019.
- Offender Clarissa Cooley (#715485). Request was presented 11/23/2020. Offender requested assistance in expediting an “out of state” transfer. Finding results/recommendations – offender was instructed to contact administrative staff regarding status of previous paperwork submitted.

2. Staff Interviews

The audit team interviewed approximately 73 staff during the course of this audit. All staff were friendly and knowledgeable of their job responsibilities. Staff acknowledged receiving 40 hours of annual training and were versed in fire safety and suicide prevention protocols. Staff stated that they do feel safe at the facility. Staff has voiced that they are provided the opportunity to work towards advancement. Staff interviewed stated that the stress and strain surrounding the COVID-19 has impacted staff to work closer together, both seasoned and newly assigned staff. As a result, staff has stated that communication has greatly improved.

H. Exit Discussion

The exit interview was held at 10:15am in the visitation room with the Nurzuhul Faust, Warden and 48 staff in attendance.

The following persons were also in attendance:

William Straughn, Deputy Director, Arkansas DOC
Bernard Williams, Regional Manager, WellPath
Bryon Brown, Lieutenant, Fire/Safety Coordinator, Arkansas DOC
Shelly Lawrence, Agency ACA Coordinator, Arkansas DOC
Cindy Murphy, Communications Director, Arkansas DOC
Lewis Young, Major, Grimes Unit, Arkansas DOC
Sherri McEwen, Grimes Unit ACA Manager, Arkansas DOC

The chairperson explained the procedures that would follow the audit. The team discussed the compliance levels of the mandatory and non-mandatory standards and reviewed their individual findings with the group.

The chairperson expressed appreciation for the cooperation of everyone concerned and congratulated the facility team for the progress made and encouraged them to continue to strive toward even further professionalism within the correctional field.

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION
AND THE
COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR CORRECTIONS

COMPLIANCE TALLY

Manual Type	Adult Correctional Institutions, 5 th Edition	
Supplement	Not Applicable	
Facility/Program	The McPherson Unit Arkansas Division of Corrections	
Audit Dates	April 7 – 9, 2021	
Auditor(s)	Robbin Bell - Chairperson, Joy Bell - Team Member, Bruce Bell - Team Member	
	MANDATORY	NON-MANDATORY
Number of Standards in Manual	64	509
Number Not Applicable	0	25
Number Applicable	64	484
Number Non-Compliance	0	1
Number in Compliance	64	483
Percentage (%) of Compliance	100%	99.8%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Standards <i>minus</i> Number of Not Applicable <i>equals</i> Number Applicable • Number Applicable <i>minus</i> Number Non-Compliance <i>equals</i> Number Compliance • Number Compliance <i>divided by</i> Number Applicable <i>equals</i> Percentage of Compliance 	

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR CORRECTIONS

Visiting Committee Findings

Non-Mandatory Standards

Non-Compliance

Standard # 5-ACI-1C-05

THE WARDEN/SUPERINTENDENT CAN DOCUMENT THAT THE OVERALL VACANCY RATE AMONG THE STAFF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED FOR WORKING DIRECTLY WITH INMATES DOES NOT EXCEED 10 PERCENT FOR ANY 18-MONTH PERIOD.

FINDINGS:

The vacancy rate of McPherson has exceeded the 10% vacancy rate for any 18-month period for authorized positions for working directly with inmates.

Plan of Action

We challenge all staff at the McPherson Unit to recruit prospective employees. We have also extended an open opportunity once a week for applicants to become potential new employees by directly visiting the McPherson Unit Human Resource staff that assist them through the application process. The McPherson Unit employees have been encouraged to work as a team to assist with recruitment efforts through various methods such as conducting job fairs in the community and surrounding areas. The McPherson Unit also uses social media to disseminate information about employment opportunities. The McPherson Unit offers an incentive program to current staff members for referring new employees. The Arkansas Division of Correction has a website (www.arcareers.arkansas.gov) that lists all available jobs and an on-line application process to aid all interested parties in seeking employment at the ADC.

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- c. Warden and Human Resource Manager

Assigned Staff

- a. Human Resource Administration Staff
- b. Unit Human Resource Manager

Anticipated Completion Date

- a. 2024 ACA Audit or sooner

AUDITOR'S RESPONSE:

The audit team agrees with the submitted Plan of Action. Vacancy rates are an issue across the field of corrections, and ADC is taking action to hire more staff and improve retention rates.

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR CORRECTIONS

Visiting Committee Findings

Non-Mandatory Standards

Not Applicable

Standard # 5-ACI-1B-24

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE THAT, CONSISTENT WITH THE LAWS AND LEGAL PRACTICES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION, RESTITUTION IS COLLECTED AND ULTIMATELY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE VICTIMS OF CRIME AND/OR THEIR SURVIVORS. WHEN SUPPORTED BY STATUTE, AND FEASIBLE, VICTIM AWARENESS CLASSES ARE OFFERED TO HELP OFFENDERS UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THEIR CRIMES ON THE VICTIMS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND THEIR OWN FAMILIES.

FINDINGS:

Per ACT 1262 of 1997, the McPherson Unit - Arkansas Division of Corrections (ADC) is not responsible. Restitution is addressed in ADC code (annotated 5-4-205, ACT 817 of 1997, Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Act.

Standard # 5-ACI-1C-12

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE THAT EMPLOYEES COVERED BY MERIT SYSTEMS, CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS, OR UNION CONTRACT ARE APPOINTED INITIALLY FOR A PROBATIONARY TERM OF AT LEAST SIX MONTHS BUT NO LONGER THAN ONE YEAR UNLESS NATIONAL OR STATE REGULATIONS SPECIFY OTHERWISE.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit is not covered by merit systems, civil service or regulations, or union contracts.

Standard #5-ACI-2C-06

(NEW CONSTRUCTION after June 2014). INMATES HAVE ACCESS TO TOILETS AND HAND-WASHING FACILITIES 24-HOUR PER DAY AND ARE ABLE TO USE TOILET FACILITIES WITHOUT STAFF ASSISTANCE WHEN THEY ARE CONFINED IN THEIR CELLS/SLEEPING AREAS.

TOILETS ARE PROVIDED AT A MINIMUM RATIO OF 1 FOR EVERY 12 INMATES IN MALE FACILITIES AND 1 FOR EVERY 8 INMATES IN FEMALE FACILITIES. URINALS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR UP TO ONE-HALF OF THE TOILETS IN MALE FACILITIES. ALL HOUSING UNITS WITH THREE OR MORE INMATES HAVE A MINIMUM OF TWO TOILETS. THESE RATIOS APPLY UNLESS ANY APPLICABLE BUILDING OR HEALTH CODES REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FIXTURES.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit has had no new construction (after June 2014).

Standard #5-ACI-2C-08

(NEW CONSTRUCTION after June 2014). INMATES HAVE ACCESS TO OPERABLE WASHBASINS WITH HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER IN THE HOUSING UNITS AT A MINIMUM RATIO OF 1 BASIN FOR EVERY 12 OCCUPANTS. THESE RATIOS APPLY UNLESS ANY APPLICABLE BUILDING OR HEALTH CODES REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FIXTURES.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit has had no new construction (after June 2014).

Standard #5-ACI-2C-10

(NEW CONSTRUCTION after June 2014). INMATES HAVE ACCESS TO OPERABLE SHOWERS WITH TEMPERATURE-CONTROLLED HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER, AT A MINIMUM RATIO OF ONE SHOWER FOR EVERY TWELVE INMATES, UNLESS APPLICABLE CODES REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FIXTURES. WATER FOR SHOWERS IS THERMOSTATICALLY CONTROLLED TO TEMPERATURES RANGING FROM 100 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT TO 120 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF INMATES AND PROMOTE HYGIENIC PRACTICES.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit has had no new construction (after June 2014).

Standard #5-ACI-2D-05

(NEW CONSTRUCTION or RENOVATION after June 1, 2014). EACH DORMITORY PROVIDES INMATES WITH ACCESS TO NATURAL LIGHT BY MEANS OF AT LEAST 12 SQUARE FEET, PLUS TWO ADDITIONAL SQUARE FEET OF TRANSPARENT GLAZING PER INMATE IN THE DORMITORY.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit has had no new construction or renovation (after June 1, 2014).

Standard #5-ACI-3A-07

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE REQUIRE THAT WHEN BOTH MALES AND FEMALES ARE HOUSED IN THE FACILITY, AT LEAST ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE STAFF MEMBER ARE ON DUTY AT ALL TIMES.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house male offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-3A-17

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE, IN GENERAL, PROHIBIT THE USE OF RESTRAINTS ON FEMALE OFFENDERS DURING ACTIVE LABOR AND THE DELIVERY OF A CHILD. ANY DEVIATION FROM THE PROHIBITION REQUIRES APPROVAL BY, AND GUIDANCE ON, METHODOLOGY FROM THE MEDICAL AUTHORITY AND IS BASED ON DOCUMENTED SERIOUS SECURITY RISKS. THE MEDICAL AUTHORITY PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF RESTRAINTS ON PREGNANT OFFENDERS PRIOR TO ACTIVE LABOR AND DELIVERY.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house pregnant females.

Standard #5-ACI-3A-43

WHERE A CANINE UNIT EXISTS, POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PRACTICED PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- A MISSION STATEMENT, INCLUDING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- EMERGENCY PLANS THAT ARE INTEGRATED INTO THE OVERALL EMERGENCY PLANS OF THE FACILITY.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not maintain a canine unit.

Standard #5-ACI-3A-44

WHERE A CANINE UNIT EXISTS, POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE FOR TRAINING OF HANDLERS/DOG TEAMS AND UPKEEP AND CARE OF THE ANIMALS PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- CRITERIA FOR SELECTION, TRAINING, AND CARE OF ANIMALS
- CRITERIA FOR SELECTION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF HANDLERS
- AN APPROVED SANITATION PLAN WHICH COVERS INSPECTION, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND DAILY GROOMING FOR DOGS

EACH HANDLER/DOG TEAM SHOULD BE TRAINED, CERTIFIED, AND RE-CERTIFIED ANNUALLY BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING BODY OR A COMPARABLE INTERNAL TRAINING AND PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not maintain a canine unit.

Standard #5-ACI-3A-45

WHERE A CANINE UNIT EXISTS, POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE PROVIDE DAILY AND CURRENT RECORDS ON TRAINING, CARE OF DOGS, AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not maintain a canine unit.

Standard #5-ACI-3D-05

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE THAT MALE AND FEMALE INMATES HOUSED IN THE SAME INSTITUTION HAVE SEPARATE SLEEPING QUARTERS BUT EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL AVAILABLE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS. NEITHER SEX IS DENIED OPPORTUNITITES SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SMALLER NUMBER IN THE POPULATION.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house male offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-5B-13

IF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS ARE HOUSED IN THE FACILITY, WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE THAT THEY ARE HOUSED IN A SPECIALIZED UNIT FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS EXCEPT WHEN: BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A VIOLENT, PREDATORY YOUTHFUL OFFENDER POSES AN UNDUE RISK OF HARM TO OTHERS WITHIN THE SPECIALIZED UNIT; AND/OR
- A QUALIFIED MEDICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST DOCUMENT THAT THE YOUTHFUL OFFENDER WOULD BENEFIT FROM PLACEMENT OUTSIDE THE UNIT

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE SPECIFIC REASONS FOR HOUSING A YOUTHFUL OFFENDER OUTSIDE THE SPECIALIZED UNIT AND A CASE-MANAGEMENT PLAN SPECIFYING WHAT BEHAVIORS NEED TO BE MODIFIED AND HOW THE YOUTHFUL OFFENDER MAY RETURN TO THE UNIT. THE STATEMENT OF REASONS AND CASE-MANAGEMENT PLAN MUST BE APPROVED BY THE WARDEN OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE. CASES ARE REVIEWED AT LEAST QUARTERLY BY THE CASE MANAGER, THE WARDEN OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, AND THE YOUTHFUL OFFENDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER A YOUTHFUL OFFENDER SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SPECIALIZED UNIT.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house youthful offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-5B-14

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS HOUSED IN THE SPECIALIZED UNIT TO ENSURE SAFETY AND SECURITY.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house youthful offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-5B-15

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION PLANS FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS THAT DETERMINE LEVEL OF RISK AND PROGRAM NEEDS DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE FOR ADOLESCENTS. CLASSIFICATION PLANS SHALL INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL MATURITY OF THE YOUTHFUL OFFENDER.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house youthful offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-5B-16

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE REQUIRE THAT ADEQUATE PROGRAM SPACE BE PROVIDED TO MEET THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDER AND ALLOWS FOR THEIR PERSONAL INTERACTIONS AND GROUP-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house youthful offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-5B-17

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE THAT YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS IN THE SPECIALIZED UNIT FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS HAVE NO MORE THAN INCIDENTAL SIGHT OR SOUND CONTACT WITH ADULT OFFENDERS FROM OUTSIDE THE UNIT IN LIVING, PROGRAM, DINING, OR OTHER COMMON AREAS OF THE FACILITY. ANY OTHER SIGHT OR SOUND CONTACT IS MINIMIZED, BRIEF, AND IN CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house youthful offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-5B-18

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE REQUIRE THAT PROGRAM PERSONNEL WHO WORK WITH YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS FROM THE SPECIALIZED UNIT BE TRAINED IN THE DEVELOPMENT, SAFETY, AND OTHER SPECIFIC NEEDS OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS. WRITTEN JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRE TRAINING FOR STAFF SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT OR STAFF THAT IS RESPONSIBLE

FOR PROGRAMMING OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS IN THE SPECIALIZED UNIT BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO WORK WITH YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS. THE TRAINING SHOULD INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT
- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING
- CULTURAL AWARENESS
- CRISIS PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
- LEGAL ISSUES
- HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANT
- POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- THE MANAGEMENT OF, AND PROGRAMMING FOR, SEX-OFFENDERS
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES
- COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING ANGER MANAGEMENT, SOCIAL SKILLS, TRAINING, PROBLEM SOLVING, AND RESISTING PEER PRESSURE
- SUICIDE PREVENTION
- NUTRITION
- MENTAL-HEALTH ISSUES
- GENDER-SPECIFIC ISSUES
- CASE-MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not house youthful offenders.

Standard #5-ACI-5F-08

WHERE A FACILITATED VICTIM OFFENDER DIALOGUE PROGRAM EXISTS, WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE THAT THERE IS A PROGRAM INITIATED AND REQUESTED ONLY BY A VICTIM OR VICTIM/SURVIVOR THAT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH VICTIMS OR SURVIVORS TO MEET FACE TO FACE OR BY OTHER MEANS WITH THE INMATE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR VICTIMIZATION IN A SAFE, SECURE, AND CONFIDENTIAL SETTING AFTER THOROUGH PREPARATION WITH, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A PROPERLY TRAINED FACILITATOR.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not provide a facilitated victim offender dialogue program.

Standard #5-ACI-6A-11

WHERE NURSING INFANTS ARE ALLOWED TO REMAIN WITH THEIR MOTHERS, PROVISIONS ARE MADE FOR A NURSERY, STAFFED BY QUALIFIED PERSONS, WHERE THE INFANTS ARE PLACED WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN THE CARE OF THEIR MOTHERS.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not permit nursing infants to be housed with their mothers.

Standard #5-ACI-6A-39

INPATIENT CARE UNIT IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT. THESE UNITS SHOULD HAVE 24 HOUR SERVICES SUCH AS NURSING AND AVAILABILITY OF A QMHP, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINED CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS, AND CLINICAL PROGRAMMING. INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT PLANS WHICH WILL DEFINE THE TYPES AND FREQUENCY OF CONTACTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH STAFF FOR INMATES IN THE PROGRAM, HOUSING TO MEET THE THERAPEUTIC NEEDS OF THE INMATE AND TRANSITION PLAN UPON DISCHARGE FOM THE INPATIENT CARE UNIT.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not maintain an Inpatient Care Unit.

Standard #5-ACI-6B-04

WHEN INSTITUTIONS DO NOT HAVE QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE STAFF, HEALTH-TRAINED PERSONNEL COORDINATE THE HEALTH DELIVERY SERVICES IN THE INSITUTION UNDER THE JOINT SUPERVISION OF THE RESPONSIBLE HEALTH AUTHORITY AND WARDEN OR SUPERINTENDENT.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit contracts with the private medical provider, Wellpath Services, to provide fulltime 24/7 qualified personnel in the delivery of healthcare.

Standard #5-ACI-6B-10

IF VOLUNTEERS ARE USED IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE, THERE IS A DOCUMENTED SYSTEM FOR SELECTION, TRAINING, STAFF SUPERVISION, FACILITY ORIENTATION, AND DEFINITION OF TASKS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY THAT IS APPROVED BY THE HEALTH AUTHORITY. VOLUNTEERS MAY ONLY PERFORM DUTIES CONSISTENT WITH THEIR CREDENTIALS AND TRAINING. VOLUNTEERS AGREE IN WRITING TO ABIDE BY ALL FACILITY POLICIES, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO THE SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not use volunteers in the delivery of healthcare.

Standard#5-ACI-6B-11

ANY STUDENTS, INTERNS, OR RESIDENTS DELIVERING HEALTH CARE IN THE FACILITY, AS PART OF A FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAM, WORK UNDER STAFF SUPERVISION, COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR LEVEL OF TRAINING. THERE IS A WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN FACILITY AND TRAINING OR EDUCATIONAL FACILITY THAT COVERS SCOPE OF WORK, LENGTH OF AGREEMENT, AND ANY LEGAL OR LIABILITY ISSUES. STUDENT OR INTERNS AGREE IN WRITING TO ABIDE BY ALL FACILITY POLICIES, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO THE SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

FINDINGS:

McPherson Unit does not use students, interns, or residents to deliver healthcare.

Standard #5-ACI-7A-15

WRITTEN POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND PRACTICE PROVIDE THAT INMATES EMPLOYED IN THE COMMUNITY BY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN POSITIONS NORMALLY OCCUPIED BY PRIVATE CITIZENS MAY BE COMPENSATED AT THE PREVAILING WAGE RATE FOR THE POSITION OCCUPIED. INMATES RECEIVING SUCH COMPENSATION MAY BE REQUIRED TO REIMBURSE THE JURISDICTION FOR A REASONABLE SHARE OF ITS COST IN MAINTAINING THEM.

FINDINGS:

Offenders housed at the McPherson Unit are not permitted to be employed by public or private organizations.

Significant Incident Summary

This report is required for all **residential** accreditation programs.

This summary is required to be provided to the Chair of your visiting team upon their arrival for an accreditation audit and included in the facility's Annual Report. The information contained on this form will also be summarized in the narrative portion of the visiting committee report and will be incorporated into the final report. Please type the data. If you have questions on how to complete the form, please contact your Accreditation Specialist.

This report is for Adult Correctional Institutions, Adult Local Detention Facilities, Core Jail Facilities, Boot Camps, Therapeutic Communities, Juvenile Correctional Facilities, Juvenile Detention Facilities, Adult Community Residential Services, and Small Juvenile Detention Facilities.

Facility Name: McPherson Unit
Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020

0	Months	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	Nov	December	January	February	March	Total for Reporting Period
	→													
Escapes		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disturbances*		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Violence		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide*	Offender Victim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff Victim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Victim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assaults	Offender/Offender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Offender/Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Compliance with Mandatory Standard*		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire*		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Disaster*		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unnatural Death		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other*		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**May require reporting to ACA using the Critical Incident Report as soon as possible within the context of the incident itself.*



Significant Incident Summary Glossary

Assaults: An altercation which results in serious injury requiring urgent and immediate medical attention and restricts usual activities.

Disturbance: Offender action that resulted in loss of control of the facility or a portion of the facility and required extraordinary measures to regain control.

Escape: As defined by the jurisdiction reporting.

Fire: A fire which results in evacuation of staff or offenders and/or significant damage to a facility or part of a facility structure.

Homicide: As defined by the jurisdiction reporting.

Non-Compliance with Mandatory Expected Practices: Determination that a condition results in non-compliance with a mandatory standard that is expected to result in sustained non-compliance.

Natural Disaster: A natural event such as a flood, tornado, tsunami, earthquake, or hurricane that causes great damage or loss of life.

Other: Any significant negative event or distraction that adversely impacts normal operations.

Serious Injury: Is a physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious and protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

Sexual Violence (as defined by PREA): A substantiated, non-consensual sexual act includes one or more of the following behaviors:

- Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus involving penetration, however slight. It does not include kicking, grabbing or punching genitals when the intent is to harm or debilitate rather than to sexually exploit.
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus.
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object.

Unnatural Death – Death of a person in confinement for causes other than suicide, homicide, or accident that is contrary to the ordinary course of nature or otherwise abnormal.