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Edgar County Liability Review

After reviewing critical tasks and the facility at Edgar County I have identified several issues. I would recommend a full audit by LLRMI (law enforcement consultant with IPMG) and follow up to assist with compliance. Some of their issues are rooted in lack of financial resources. One suggestion would be to contract with a grant writer who can seek out sources of revenue for their many needs.

Jeff Badicore

These are the following critical issues identified:

1. Policy – Recommend complete re-write of critical policy by LLRMI (free of charge). I would seek assistance in having them custom tailored to the needs of Edgar County Jail.

will they do that now for us - have ours on file
This policy will replace all other policy, and the staff must be trained in the new policy, and document acknowledgment that they have received and been trained in the new policy.

Corrections

The policy should be reviewed yearly and signed off on by the Sheriff or his designee.

All jail practices must model policy....there can't two different standards (policy/practice)

2. Strip Searches – There must be an effort made to avoid strip searches for minor crimes/traffic offense. The opportunity should be given to bond out, or they should be held separately for a reasonable amount of time. As noted in provided policy, all strip searches in this category require supervisor approval and documentation. If all efforts are exhausted and they are admitted into general population then strip searching without reasonable suspicion, supervisor authorization, or documentation is authorized; however, you could still require for this class of inmates if the jail has the resources to do so.

3. Medical/Medication Screening – It should be in practice and policy that all personnel who dispense medications are trained to do so (or do so under the supervision of trained personnel). The same standard should apply to staff that performs medical tests such as blood sugar levels and blood pressure monitoring. Medications should all be vetted/verified by medical personnel, and there should be an ability to do this at all hours of the day, including at night.

There should be an on-call doctor on contract who can be called for consult on medical issues. This same doctor should also make regular periodic rounds of the jail, in addition to nursing services.

4. Mental Health/Suicide Prevention – There should be a contract with a mental health professional who makes regular periodic rounds of the jail, in addition to consulting with suicidal subjects.

5. PREA Compliance – *on line?* There should be an officer who is designated the PREA coordinator, and this person would be responsible for making sure inmates are informed of their rights under PREA. Full compliance under PREA greatly reduces liability in the case of alleged cases of sexual misconduct within the jail.

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6. Use of Force – All uses of force should be documented on a separate form (can/should use the normal incident report for the narrative portion). These reports should be reviewed by a supervisor immediately with a determination if the use of force was justified or not. Any incident that is deemed inappropriate or questionable should be investigated by an outside agency.

7. Training – Training must be consistent and conducted on a regular basis. All training must meet the minimum training requirements mandated by the state. These training sessions should be documented for each officer so that an alert is present indicating when a particular officer is deficient in any area of training.

All officers should be certified correctional officers and undergo appropriate training, including part-time officers.

All officers who perform medical functions and dispense medicine should also be trained in this particular area.

8. Internal Affairs – Discipline investigations should not be handled by the Sheriff. They should be handled by someone who is a subordinate because all internal affair investigations need to be reviewed by a person of superior rank.
9. Jail Physical Condition – The jail is old and in dire need of upgrades to its infrastructure. I witnessed Christmas lights hanging in place of lighting fixtures. The jail was also dirty and had trash and liquid on the ground. Ideally a new facility should be used, but that would be costly; however, this jail does not appear to meet the basic needs of a secure and safe facility.

One option would be to conduct a cost study on utilizing different jails for housing Edgar County inmates.

Another option is to seek out a grant writer to assist with funds to upgrade the facility and bring it up to acceptable standards.

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