

UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL on 12-17  
Terri Klein

6:00 - 8:30 PM

I made an unannounced visit to ACJ on the evening of 12/7/21. Special thanks to the staff who accompanied me on my visit - Capt Piendel and Commander Edwards.

The facility was clean and orderly. Staff were wearing masks, but not always covering their noses.

I spent the majority of my time in a low security women's pod. I talked to a pregnant woman on the pod. She reports that there is no fresh fruit on her tray nor is she getting snack bags. I thought that Dr. Anderson had arranged for pregnant women to get fresh fruit on their trays. She said that the medical care is good. She said that there are only mens' shoes on the commissary and that she is afraid that she is going to fall in the slippers she wears. Could women's shoes be added to the commissary? Two residents complained that they were not getting commissary items and I forwarded their names to Warden Harper to investigate. Several women were upset that they could not work in the CO lounge. Staff reported that it was due to COVID outbreak in POD and that they would be returning to work soon. The women I spoke to did not know this and were frustrated that men were working and not them. Better communication between CO and residents would likely clear up this. There were complaints about quality of food from Summit. Some residents complained about treatment from several COs ( speaking disrespectfully and in a demeaning fashion) and also are complimentary of some COs. Some were afraid to file a grievance for fear of reprisals.

I toured the kitchen during clean up. Kitchen very clean and residents work 6 hour shifts.

I toured intake and processing. Several people in processing complained that they are unable to wash hands or brush teeth. There is hand sanitizer available, but several men in processing showed me their dirty hands. Could we give out disposable tooth brushes that don't require water? There was a diabetic in processing who was concerned that he had not yet received his insulin. After speaking with medical in intake, they were aware of this person and he was on their list to check blood glucose level. Again, if staff had communicated to this man, that he was on the list to be checked, his anxiety could have been relieved. There were 3 medical professionals working in intake (RN and administrative person and 1 mental health specialist).

Staff reported working on overtime and administrative person in intake wanted to increase communication between residents and courts.

Recommendations: women's shoes on commissary, pregnant women get the diet prescribed by medical staff, tooth brushes for processing and tighter mask compliance with the rise of the Omicron variant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terri Klein