

## Introduction

On December 31, 2025, I, Jail Oversight Board member Rob Perkins, conducted an unannounced inspection focused on the conditions of incarceration for persons living with significant mental illness in the jail. This report details the inspection logistics; positive observations; and areas of concern. Overall, the jail has made significant, positive progress over the past year. However, work remains to be done to improve the conditions of confinement for people struggling with mental illness.

## Logistics

**Date of Inspection:** December 31, 2025

**Inspector:** Jail Oversight Board member Rob Perkins

**Duration:** Approximately 3 hours

**Staff Escorts:** Major Frank (primary), Deputy Warden Martin

**Focus:** Interviewing incarcerated persons, observing incarceration conditions for individuals with significant mental illness

**Pods Visited:**

- 5C (houses people with acute mental health needs)
- 5D (step-down unit that houses people with still significant, but less acute, mental health needs)
- 5F (mental health disciplinary treatment unit, for people with mental health needs who are awaiting misconduct hearings or who have been disciplined for misconduct)
- Therapy counseling area

**Interviews Conducted:** Interviewed 15-20 incarcerated persons. Also spoke with 7-10 correctional or healthcare staff.

## Observations and Findings

### **Positives**

- In my many conversations with incarcerated persons and staff about jail conditions, I received more positive feedback about the overall jail culture than I've heard in my previous 20 years of jail visits.
- Staff specifically praised improvements implemented since Warden Wingard's leadership team started its tenure in early 2025.

- The introduction of unit managers has positively impacted both staff and incarcerated persons.
- The pod workers and medical staff consistently showed empathy toward the incarcerated people in their care, and professional pride in their work.
- All staff I interacted with were professional and accommodating during my visit.

## Areas of concern

### *Pod 5C (Acute Mental Health Pod)*

- Several incarcerated individuals had reportedly been housed on this pod for weeks or months. I spoke with some of those individuals, and they exhibited delusional thinking, including delusions of grandeur and persecution. This raises serious concerns about whether they are receiving adequate treatment and care in the carceral setting. Also, without prompting, a medical staff member raised specific concerns that some individuals were not being properly medicated.
- It was reported that residents are locked alone in their cells for most of the day. While people are allowed out of their cell twice daily for two hours of recreation (rec), rec on this pod means they are transported to another area of the pod where they are locked inside a small fenced-in area with a blanket on the floor and nothing else. Some people choose to remain in their cells rather than participate in the available rec.
- The rec area has minimal natural light.
- The pod provides very limited opportunities for physical activity or exercise.
- Incarcerated persons appeared not to have easy access to liaison or interoffice communication forms to contact the Jail Oversight Board (JOB), their attorneys, or others.

### *Pod 5D (Step-Down Unit)*

- Similar to 5C, individuals on this pod did not appear to have easy access to liaison or interoffice communication forms.

### *Pod 5F (Mental Health Disciplinary Treatment Unit)*

- People reportedly spend several days to weeks here.
- It was reported that people on this pod are locked alone in their cells most of the day. While they are offered rec three times daily, rec here consists of leaving their cell to sit at a table in the pod's common area while chained to the table with handcuffs.

- This pod also appears to offer very limited opportunities for physical activity or exercise.
- Some individuals transferred to 5F reported that their personal belongings were not secured before they were transferred from their prior location.

### *Therapy Area*

- Some mental health therapy sessions took place in enclosed but transparent areas that were visible to passersby.
- Other therapy sessions occurred in open spaces with a curtain providing only partial privacy. Conversation during these sessions can easily be overheard by passersby, raising privacy and other concerns.

### *General*

- Some ‘floater’ staff, not regularly assigned to the pods where they were working during my visit, lacked some knowledge about pod conditions and processes, such as where incarcerated persons can access liaison or interoffice mail forms.

## **Other Observations**

- Several incarcerated persons shared without prompting that they read the Jail Oversight Board minutes monthly, highlighting for me the importance of communication from the jail administration and the JOB at public meetings regarding goals, priorities, successful progress, and opportunities for improvement.
- Also without prompting, questions were asked about the continuation of the incarcerated individual welfare fund (IIWF) payments, which people shared that they rely on for commissary and phone and video calls. Opinions varied on whether to continue payments at current levels or reduce prices for phone calls and commissary items.