



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards

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STATE OF MARYLAND

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VERONICA MOORE
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 15, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards Annual Report, MSAR 796

Dear Governor Hogan:

Pursuant to Correctional Services Article, § 8-110, the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards is required to submit an annual report on the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards to the Governor and General Assembly. The statute specifically states:

(a) The Commission shall report annually to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the activities of the Commission.

(b) The Commission shall provide the Secretary and the governing body of each county and municipal corporation that has a correctional facility with a copy of its annual report.

Attached is the Department's submission in satisfaction of this reporting requirement.

I hope this letter and attachment meet with your approval. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Chief of Staff, Ms. Rachel Sessa, 410-339-5022.

Sincerely,

Veronica Moore
Acting Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President, Senate of Maryland
The Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Robert L. Green, Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services
Mr. Keiffer Mitchell, Chief Legislative Officer, Governor's Office
Ms. Sarah Albert, Library Associate, Department of Legislative Services,
MSAR 796



MARYLAND

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL STANDARDS



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Robert L. Green, Secretary

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Correctional Services Article, Section §8-110, HB 11/Ch. 54, 1999, the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards is required to submit an annual report on the Commission's activities. The bill language states: (a) The [Maryland] Commission [on Correctional Standards] shall report annually to the Governor and, subject to 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the activities of the Commission (b) Secretary and Local Governments – The Commission shall provide the Secretary and the governing body of each county and municipal corporation that has a correctional facility with a copy of its annual report.

On or before November 15 of each year, the Commission on Correctional Standards shall submit an annual report to the Secretary and Governor on the activities of the Commission.

OVERVIEW

The Commission on Correctional Standards (Commission) collaborates with criminal justice organizations in the development, measurement, monitoring and enforcement of statewide correctional standards. The Commission provides quality compliance audits that are firm, fair, consistent and promote correctional standards as a best practice. The Commission develops correctional employees through its duly authorized inspector training program and promotes accountability in correctional agencies' operations.

The Commission provides standards compliance audits for all local and state correctional facilities. Commission staff develop audit reports for the Commission's review and approval, provide technical assistance to correct areas of non-compliance, monitor compliance plans, and takes other such actions necessary to ensure continued compliance. The Commission develops legislatively mandated standards, conducts reviews, and updates existing standards. Commission staff provide duly authorized inspector training for local and state correctional staff, who assist in conducting standards compliance audits.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Audits

The Commission audited 14 correctional facilities during FY 2020. Due to the State's Elevated Level II operational status during the coronavirus pandemic, field audits were suspended, effective March 16, 2020, and remained suspended through the end of FY 2020. Prior to the suspension, there were seven audits at Adult Detention Centers, three audits at Adult Correctional Institutions, and four audits at Adult Community Correctional Facilities, totaling 14 audits, (see Audit Results and Non-compliance Breakdown - Pages 6). Facilities and the agency audits, which were cancelled due to the State's operational status, will be rescheduled once the suspension is lifted. Five of those facilities were found to be in total compliance with all of the minimum standards for places of adult confinement during the initial audit.

The Recognition of Achievement is awarded to all facilities achieving 100% compliance at the time of their initial audit or upon successful completion of a monitoring visit. The Recognition of Achievement continues to be a benchmark for correctional facilities in the state and represents a commitment to the standards and the audit process by managing officials. Facilities that received this award are outlined on page four.

Duly Authorized Inspector Training

The Commission staff held one, 8-hour Duly Authorized Inspector Training session, on October 30, 2019, which consisted of 28 perspective Duly Authorized Inspectors. All candidates completed the course, were certified, and received training credits through the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission. The Duly Authorized Inspector Program continues to be a vital part of the Commission's success with conducting and managing the audit schedule. The training enables individuals to assist their facilities in preparation for Commission audits and aids with achieving the highest level of compliance, with a greater understanding of the audit process. Trained Duly Authorized Inspectors enhance facility procedures and are an additional tool in conducting internal audits to assess compliance with the standards.

Fire Safety Officer Training

The Commission, on February 5, 2020, held an 8-hour Fire Safety Officer Training session, in collaboration with the State Fire Marshal's office which consisted of over 40 prospective Fire Safety Officers. The candidates completed the course, were certified, and received training credits through the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission. The objective of the training is to provide Fire Safety Officers with the information necessary to construct, implement and document an internal fire safety program. The Fire Safety Officer Training program is vital for the maintenance of fire safety devices, equipment, and systems for fire prevention.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)

Commission Meetings

The 12 member Commission includes nine persons appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for three year terms. Correctional Services Article § 8-107 requires members to be appointed as follows: two citizen members; two state correctional officials; two local correctional officials; an elected official from a local government body; a member from the medical/mental health profession and an official of a national standards accrediting body. The Attorney General, Secretary of General Services, and Secretary of Budget and Management serve as ex officio members of the Commission. Director Terry Kokolis, Talbot County Department of Corrections, was appointed as a local correctional official on the Commission, during FY 2020. The board meets on a quarterly basis at pre-determined correctional facilities in the state. The meetings consist of reviews of audit results including discussions with representatives from the audited facilities, the facilities' plans for corrective action, and appeals. Commission members review and approve updated standards as well as new standards mandated by the General Assembly.

269 th Commission Meeting	September 26, 2019	Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup Jessup, Maryland
270 th Commission Meeting	January 30, 2020	Jessup Correctional Institution Jessup, Maryland

The November 2019 Commission Meeting was cancelled due to a limited agenda and the March 2020 and May 2020 Commission Meetings were cancelled, as a result of the State's Elevated Level II operational status.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)

Recognition of Achievement Award

The following correctional facilities received the Recognition of Achievement award for FY 2020.

September 26, 2019	Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections
September 26, 2019	Cecil County Community Corrections Center
September 26, 2019	Eastern Correctional Institution
September 26, 2019	Eastern Correctional Institution-Annex
September 26, 2019	Western Correctional Institution
September 26, 2019	Garrett County Detention Center
January 30, 2020	St. Mary's County Detention & Rehabilitation Center
January 30, 2020	North Branch Correctional Institution
January 30, 2020	Frederick County Detention Center & Annex
January 30, 2020	Wicomico County Department of Corrections

CONCLUSION

The Commission continues to work in collaboration with regulatory agencies and criminal justice organizations to support its mission in the development, measurement, monitoring, and enforcement of correctional standards. Audit results for the fiscal year demonstrates a high level of commitment by managing officials, the Commission Board and staff. Annual training activities in critical areas, such as, standards compliance and fire safety, with the addition of thorough quality correctional facility audits and regular Commission meeting reviews, should ensure statewide standards compliance. Although Executive Director Howard Ray Jr. retired from state service on April 1, 2020, the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards looks forward to the challenges and accomplishments ahead. Veronica Moore is currently Acting Executive Director for the Commission. Through leadership, partnership, communication and advocating the use of standards as a management tool, we will make the State of Maryland's correctional system a model for the nation. Thank you for your support as we faithfully dedicate ourselves to carrying out this important mission for the citizens of Maryland.

AUDIT RESULTS

INSTITUTION NON-COMPLIANCE BREAKDOWN – 14TH CYCLE (JULY 2019- JUNE 2020) – FY 2020

Institution	Date	Type	TC	M/V	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	Total
Maryland Correctional Training Center	7/16-19/19	ACI		√		1		1					2
Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup	11/12-15/20	ACI		√		1		1					2
Baltimore City Correctional Center	12/9-13/19	ACI		√		1							1
Patuxent Institution	CANCELLED	ACI											
Total ACI Audited	3												
St. Mary's County Detention Center	8/20-22/19	ADC	√										
Montgomery County Correctional Facility	9/17-20/19	ADC		√		1	1						2
Montgomery County Detention Center	10/22-24/19	ADC		√		1		2				1	4
Caroline County Detention Center	11/5-7/19	ADC		√		2	2						4
Prince George's County Detention Center	1/7-10/20	ADC		√		2		1					3
Washington County Detention Center	2/25-27/20	ADC	√										
Somerset County Detention Center	3/10-12/20	ADC	√										
Carroll County Detention Center	CANCELLED	ADC											
Dorchester County Detention Center	CANCELLED	ADC											
Total ADC Audited	7												
Central Maryland Correctional Facility	7/30-8/2/19	ACCF		√		1			1			1	3
Prince George's County Community Release Center	1/7-10/20	ACCF		√	4	4		3	1				12
Threshold, Incorporated	1/23-24/20	ACCF		√			1						1
Eastern Pre-Release Unit	2/4-6/20	ACCF	√										
Southern Maryland Prerelease Unit	CANCELLED	ACCF											
Total ACCF Audited	4												
DPSCS - Office of Inmate Health Services	CANCELLED												
Total HQ Audited	0												
14th Cycle Audit Totals	14		4	10	4	14	4	8	2			2	34

KEY: ACI – Adult Correctional Institution ADC – Adult Detention Center ACCF – Adult Community Correctional Facility HQ – Headquarters
 TC – Total Compliance CANCELLED – Field audits due to State's Elevated Level II Operational Status during COVID-19, effective March 16, 2020.
 .01 – Security and Inmate Control .02 – Inmate Safety .03 – Inmate Food Services .04 – Inmate Housing and Sanitation
 .05 – Inmate Rights .06 – Classification .07 – Hearings .08 – Administrative Record Keeping

Audit results show audits performed by denoting facility, date of audit and number of non-compliant standards at the time of the initial audit.