

# 2023 Annual Report



**Monroe County Correctional Center  
Charlotte T. Zietlow Justice Center  
301 North College Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47404**

# ANNUAL JAIL REPORTING

## **IC 36-2-13-12**

### **Reports; persons confined in county jail; condition of county jail; recommendations**

(b) The sheriff shall file with the county executive an annual report of the condition of the county jail and any recommended improvements in its maintenance and operation. The report shall also be filed with the county auditor and maintained as a public record.

*As added by Acts 1980, P.L.212, SEC.1.*

## **210 IAC 3-1-2 Administration and organization**

Authority: IC 11-8-2-5; IC 11-12-4-1

Affected: IC 11-12-4-1

(b) Each sheriff shall prepare and submit, not later than March 31 after the conclusion of each calendar year, a written report setting forth the annual statistical data and the extent and availability of services and programs to inmates identifying major events that have occurred in the jail and unfunded operational needs. The report shall be directed to the circuit court judge, and copies shall be provided to the state jail inspector, president of the county council or city-county council, prosecutor, and president of the board of commissioners. The report shall also be provided to the county auditor and be maintained as a public record. At a minimum, the report shall include the following:

- (1) The total number of beds.
- (2) The total number of bookings with at least the top ten (10) identified by offense.
- (3) The average daily inmate population.
- (4) The total number of jail and in-custody deaths by type (suicide, natural causes, homicide) with a summary of each occurrence.
- (5) The number of escapes.
- (6) The total number of juveniles booked into the jail via waiver or direct file.
- (7) The availability of services provided at the jail.
- (8) A statement on the adequacy of jail staffing levels.
- (9) A statement on the maintenance and upkeep of the jail.
- (10) Unfunded needs and projects essential to jail operation and maintenance.
- (11) The average length of stay, for all inmates housed in the jail as of December 31, of the preceding year

## **MONROE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

The Monroe County Correctional Center is located at 301 North College Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana. The Correctional Center is housed within the Monroe County Justice Building's 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Floors. The facility was built in 1984 and had an original bed count of 128. Over the years additional bed space was gained from double bunking all cells, except for two for ADA compliance. Space previously designed for other uses has been converted to housing, the latest in 2017 when a remodeling project of a space previously used for storage was completed. This space, designated as K-Block, provided an additional seven beds to the facility, and serves as a housing area for select inmates with significant mental health issues. J-Block, with 32 beds, has been repurposed in its entirety to accommodate inmates with significant mental health needs. With the latest remodel in 2017, the Correctional Center bed count is currently at 294.

### **TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS**

A Block: 32	B Block: 31	C Block: 32	D Block: 32
E Block: 32	F Block: 14	G Block: 5	H Block: 4
I Block: 32	J Block: 32	K Block: 7	Trustee: 22
Program: 12			
			<i>Total: 287 beds</i>
Segregation: 4 beds	Padded Cell: 1 bed		Holding: 2 beds
			<u><i>Total: 7 beds</i></u>
			<b><i>Total: 294</i></b>

## BOOKING STATISTICS



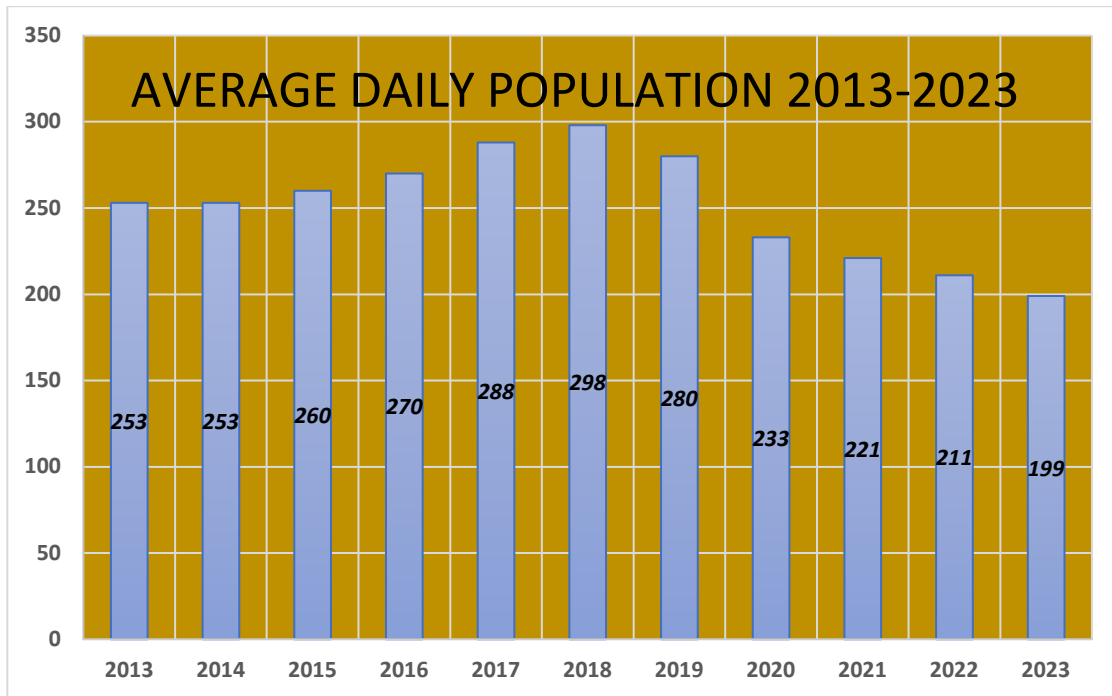
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Admissions</u>	4869	3092	2956	3241	3400

### Top Ten Booking Types in 2023:

1. Failure to Appear/Contempt
2. Hold for Other Jurisdiction
3. Probation Hold
4. Violation of Terms of Placement
5. Domestic Battery
6. Resisting Law Enforcement
7. Probation Violation- Wanted on Warrant
8. Operating while Intoxicated with Endangerment
9. Battery
10. Theft

# AVERAGE INMATE POPULATION

## Population by Year



## Average Daily Population by Month

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2023	188	194	191	201	196	193	207	202	194	202	211	198
2022	208	211	193	207	226	223	234	203	228	211	187	177
2021	231	236	248	239	221	218	209	212	217	213	205	201
2020	252	258	238	181	205	232	230	238	238	247	245	230
2019	293	291	301	291	296	293	277	278	271	274	255	239
2018	288	283	289	313	289	269	288	299	324	310	316	308

## Inmate Meal Cost

2023	TOTAL SPENT	BUDGETED	DIFFERENCE	# OF MEALS	COST PER MEAL
January	\$33,650.52	\$22,436.37	(\$11,214.15)	17,127	\$1.96
February	\$30,249.18	\$20,738.61	(\$9,510.57)	15,831	\$1.91
March	\$32,672.77	\$25,774.20	(\$6,898.57)	17,415	\$1.88
April	\$31,713.22	\$26,182.68	(\$5,530.54)	17,691	\$1.79
May	\$35,327.39	\$26,533.44	(\$8,793.95)	17,928	\$1.97
June	\$34,193.90	\$25,165.92	(\$9,027.98)	17,004	\$2.01
July	\$31,340.33	\$28,038.60	(\$3,301.73)	18,945	\$1.65
August	\$38,023.41	\$27,465.84	(\$10,557.57)	18,558	\$2.05
September	\$35,360.74	\$26,338.08	(\$9,022.66)	17,796	\$1.99
October	\$31,070.79	\$27,310.44	(\$3,760.35)	18,453	\$1.68
November	\$35,629.80	\$27,652.32	(\$7,977.48)	18,685	\$1.91
December	\$33,512.22	\$29,579.28	(\$3,932.94)	19,986	\$1.68

TOTALS	\$402,744.27	\$313,215.78	(\$89,528.49)	215,418	\$1.87
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2022	TOTAL SPENT	BUDGETED	DIFFERENCE	# OF MEALS	COST PER MEAL
January	\$18,490.37	\$24,456.39	\$5,966.02	18,669	\$0.99
February	\$23,941.72	\$22,458	(\$1,483.91)	17,151	\$1.40
March	\$31,157.81	\$22,680.03	(\$8,477.78)	17,313	\$1.80
April	\$24,106.10	\$23,524.98	(\$581.12)	17,958	\$1.34
May	\$31,415.17	\$26,653.26	(\$4,761.91)	20,346	\$1.54
June	\$38,782.85	\$25,383.87	(\$13,398.98)	19,377	\$2.00
July	\$34,656.20	\$27,537.51	(\$7,118.69)	21,021	\$1.65
August	\$44,826.41	\$27,553.23	(\$17,273.18)	21,033	\$2.13
September	\$30,511.73	\$26,040.18	(\$4,471.55)	19,878	\$1.53
October	\$33,806.19	\$24,896.55	(\$8,909.64)	19,005	\$1.78
November	\$54,737.03	\$21,284.88	(\$33,452.15)	16,248	\$3.37
December	\$29,197.95	\$20,754.33	(\$8,443.62)	15,843	\$1.84

TOTALS	\$395,629.53	\$293,223.02	(\$102,406.51)	223,842	\$1.78
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## Monroe Correctional Center Inflation Tracking

	2021	2022	2023	1 Year Change (+/-)	Percentage
Loaf of Bread	\$0.98	\$1.15	\$1.60	\$.45	39.13%
Case of Milk	\$13.05	\$19.75	\$21.74	\$1.99	10.07%
Case of 15 dozen Eggs	\$15.88	\$19.46	\$58.13	\$38.67	198.71%
Pound of Ground Beef	\$1.58	\$2.68	\$2.60	(\$ .08)	-2.98%
50 Lbs of Sugar	\$31.23	\$30.21	\$40.36	\$10.15	33.59%
1 Lb of Cheese Slices	\$2.07	\$2.71	\$3.03	\$.64	30.91%
30 Lbs of Margarine	\$25.25	\$39.44	\$40.39	\$.95	2.4%
20 Lbs- Elbow Macaroni	\$12.49	\$16.68	\$18.81	\$2.13	12.76%
20 Lbs of Corn	\$17.72	\$19.88	\$24.76	\$4.88	24.54%
20 Lbs Carrots	\$11.18	\$13.50	\$15.40	\$1.90	14.07%
20 Lbs of Peas & Carrots	\$14.76	\$17.46	\$20.41	\$2.95	16.89%

### Food Purchasing

The Monroe Correctional Center purchases approximately the following quantities of food for inmate meals:

- 380 Loaves of bread per week
- 50 Cases of milk per week
- 120 Dozen eggs per week
- 80 Pounds of ground beef per week
- 200 Pounds of sugar per week
- 80 Pounds of cheese slices per week
- 180 Pounds of margarine per month
- 120 Pounds of elbow macaroni per week
- 120 Pounds of corn per week
- 120 Pounds of carrots per week
- 120 Pounds of peas & carrots per week

## Correctional Center Inmate Transportation

<b>2023</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b># Officers</b>
January	1953	73.48	41
February	2701	94.98	44
March	3668	126.93	57
April	1870	110.56	51
May	2830	113.15	59
June	2530	100.48	47
July	3383	106.5	35
August	3204	128.03	52
September	2366	93.85	37
October	3373	156.53	40
November	4814	162.25	36
December	1866	101.52	30
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>34,558</b>	<b>1,368.26</b>	<b>529</b>

<b>2022</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b># Officers</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b># Officers</b>
January	3539	87.9	42	January	2113	69.63	44
February	2638	82.65	44	February	1214	44.67	28
March	2823	81.83	42	March	3918	113.57	48
April	2953	80.1	38	April	2557	76.75	46
May	2953	98.11	44	May	3787	124.53	66
June	3219	120.66	52	June	3714	107.17	50
July	2632	92.9	48	July	2340	80.3	48
August	3743	128.16	62	August	3034	109.45	68
September	2321	88.76	48	September	4062	129.7	78
October	5712	145.31	60	October	2102	92.92	54
November	2172	87.38	48	November	1546	57.5	36
December	2386	98.35	36	December	1760	60.23	38
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>37,091</b>	<b>1,192.11</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>32,147</b>	<b>1,066.42</b>	<b>604</b>



## Court Services:

2023	Officers	Inmates
January	279	694
February	288	423
March	300	462
April	256	434
May	176	406
June	168	407
July	166	384
August	296	503
September	198	393
October	294	516
November	243	464
December	184	361

<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>2,848</b>	<b>5,447</b>
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2021	Officers	Hours	Inmates	2022	Officers	Hours	Inmates
January	212	255	382	January	225	268	375
February	215	235	340	February	200	250	345
March	273	319	298	March	219	331	419
April	218	327	302	April	198	225	417
May	231	287	256	May	222	283	427
June	153	320	329	June	225	256	456
July	139	265	292	July	196	216	427
August	140	300	261	August	244	296	528
September	111	235	267	September	175	216	420
October	125	236	260	October	223	280	435
November	115	289	233	November	180	231	365
December	107	207	240	December	147	190	293

<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>2039</b>	<b>3275</b>	<b>3460</b>	<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>2454</b>	<b>3042</b>	<b>4907</b>
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## **Library Services:**

The Monroe Correctional Center and the Monroe County Public Library continue their years-long partnership providing library services at the Jail. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM, the library is open and staffed by volunteers who are employed with the Monroe County Public Library. Inmates can request books from the Monroe County Public Library if we do not have the book within the on-site library. Our inventory of books were donated by organizations, members of the public, and the Monroe County Library. Inmates can check out six books at a time and can maintain up to 10 books at a time, excluding religious and educational materials.

## **MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY JAIL SERVICE SUMMARY**

<b>2023</b>	<b>Blocks Served</b>	<b>Patrons Served</b>	<b>Books Circulated</b>	<b>MCPL Books</b>	<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>CIRCS/HOURS</b>
<b>January</b>	16	181	823	7	830	19	43.68
<b>February</b>	15	233	1014	4	1018	24	42.42
<b>March</b>	34	294	1227	12	1239	27.5	45.05
<b>April</b>	24	219	949	6	955	24	39.79
<b>May</b>	28	250	1069	8	1077	24.5	43.96
<b>June</b>	20	216	935	4	939	24	39.13
<b>July</b>	19	195	847	9	856	20	42.8
<b>August</b>	24	251	1024	3	1027	26.25	39.12
<b>September</b>	16	160	680	1	681	20	34.05
<b>October</b>	25	242	1041	8	1049	25	41.96
<b>November</b>	25	231	1008	6	1014	23.5	43.15
<b>December</b>	20	190	841	4	845	22	38.41
<b>Total</b>	266	2662	11458	72	11530	279.75	493.52

<b>2022</b>	<b>Blocks Served</b>	<b>Patrons Served</b>	<b>Books Circulated</b>	<b>MCPL Books</b>	<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>CIRCS/HOURS</b>
January	16	175	799	2	801	21.5	37.26
February	13	163	723	3	726	22	33
March	23	231	1053	3	1056	29.5	35.8
April	14	181	806	6	812	22	36.91
May	14	203	911	3	914	23.5	38.89
June	15	243	1127	5	1132	28	40.43
July	14	200	909	2	911	24.5	37.18
August	19	251	1165	15	1180	28	42.14
September	14	170	756	2	758	22.5	33.69
October	13	178	821	4	825	22.25	37.08
November	12	128	562	2	564	19.5	28.92
December	18	173	784	1	785	23.5	33.4
Total	185	2296	10416	48	10464	286.75	434.7

#### 2023 DATES MISSED SUMMARY

<u>Reason Given</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
Facility on Lockdown	1
Inclement Weather	1
Power Outage	1
Jail staff not available	10
Library staff not available	1

**TOTAL: 14**

#### 2022 DATES MISSED SUMMARY

<u>Reason Given</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
Facility on Lockdown	3
Inclement Weather	1
Indoor Recreation in Use	1
Jail staff not available	3
Library staff not available	2

**TOTAL: 10**

### **TOTAL NUMBER OF JAIL IN-CUSTODY DEATHS**

In 2023 there were no in-custody deaths at the Monroe County Correctional Center.

## **TOTAL NUMBER OF ESCAPES WHILE IN CUSTODY**

There were no escapes from the Monroe County Correctional Center during the 2023 year.

## **TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILES BOOKED INTO JAIL VIA WAIVER OR DIRECT FILE**

There were zero (0) juvenile bookings into the Correctional Center on waiver or direct file in 2023.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO INMATES**

### **Monroe County Adult Education Classes**

**By Christopher Harmon, Teacher, Broadview Learning Center, Monroe County Community School Corporation:**

The Monroe County Jail and MCCSC Adult Education programs collaborate to offer many types of opportunities for inmates that improve skills and earn various certifications. MCCSC Adult Ed has offered a class at MCJ since the Spring of 2016. Throughout that time, we have helped hundreds of inmates earn their High School Equivalency Diplomas (Formerly GED), WorkKeys Certifications, MSSC certifications, OSHA 10 certifications, and most recently ServSafe Food Manager Certifications and Essential SoftSkills Certifications from the Dept. of Workforce Development. Our class runs daily Mon-Friday from 1:00-3:30.

Here is some information about the programs we currently offer:

### **High School Equivalency Preparation and Testing**

We help students who do not hold a high school diploma or GED prepare for the HiSet Exam to earn their High School Equivalency Diplomas. When a student is adequately prepared, our director Lily Albright comes to the jail and gives them the test. If successful, they earn their HSE (formerly GED). Part of our partnership is that the MCJ pays for the student's tests (\$100).

### **WIN Essential Soft Skills Training and Certification**

Another training that we currently offer is the Essential Soft Skills training from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Students receive training and then take an assessment to show mastery of these “soft skills”. If passed, the students earn a certification from Indiana DWD.

The WIN Essential Soft Skills assessment is composed of questions measuring entry-level work tasks and behaviors, including communicating effectively; conveying professionalism; promoting teamwork and collaboration; and thinking critically and solving problems. The assessment items require the learner to choose two answers for each question, the “best” and “worst” answers for handling each situation.

Managers, workers, and supervisors from across industries identified the skills from the EFF Standards as critical for entry-level workers to succeed in today’s workplace and global economy.

### **ServSafe Food Protection Manager Training and Certification**

A ServSafe Manager Certification is a certificate for managers of food establishments that confirms their knowledge of proper food safety practices. In addition, it shows that the recipient has the skills to manage food safety within their restaurant. In many areas in the United States, including Indiana, obtaining this certificate is a requirement for managers of restaurants. The certification is recognized by the National Restaurant Association for a period of five years and is issued by ServSafe upon successful completion of their course and after passing the final exam.

Having the certification can make you a more valuable asset for employers, which may be helpful for acquiring future foodservice industry positions. In addition, some food service businesses may require their staff to be certified, regardless of the local regulations. Finally, and most importantly, the knowledge that you can gain from becoming a ServSafe Certified Manager can put you and your coworkers’ minds at ease by increasing the safety of your working environment.

The collaboration between MCCSC Adult Education and the Monroe County Jail is a true partnership. If there is ever anything that our program needs, the MCJ staff is very responsive to assist. We hope to continue this partnership for many years to come.

### **2023 Data:**

- 150 inmates requested to be in class
- 90 inmates participated in class with at least 12 classroom hours
- 2062.95 student hours spent in class
- 25.79 average hours per student
- 11 ServSafe Food Safety Trainings conducted
- 67 students completed ServSafe training and took certification exam
- 57 students successfully passed ServSafe examination and earned “Food Protection Manager” Certification
- 65 students completed “Essential SoftSkills” training through Indiana Department of Workforce Development
- 60 students successfully passed Essential Softskills examination resulting in certifications.
- 4 students worked toward earning their High School Equivalency Diploma
- 2 students earned their High School Equivalency Diplomas

### **2022 Data:**

- 64 Students enrolled in classes. Students must attend 12 hours of class to be considered enrolled.
- 5 Students studied for GED’s (81 Student hours).
- 59 Students participated in 14 ServSafe Trainings. (1408 Student Hours). Each training is approximately 3 weeks, or 15 classes.
- 1489 Total Student Hours were completed.
- 14 ServSafe training programs were provided.
- 37 Food Manager Certifications were earned out of 51 attempts.
- 23 WIN SoftSkills Certifications were earned through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development out of 26 attempts.



# New Leaf - New Life, Inc.

Transformative Justice, Personal Growth, & Self-Advocacy

**Mission Statement:** To support individuals who are currently incarcerated or have been recently released from incarceration with their reentry back into our community.

## What We Do:

### *Inside the Jail:*

Any individual is able to write to us through in-house mail to request support/resources. We will help with as much as we're able to, but common requests include:

Treatment applications	Housing applications	Reading glasses
Reentry resource guides	Property pick-up & storage	Prescription glasses
Info on their next court date	Submitting applications on their behalf	Clothing post-release

Additionally, we currently have one volunteer leading a workshop in the jail on Sunday afternoons. We would like to provide more reentry programming inside the jail to help set folks up for success upon their release.

We also facilitate the Read to Me program (in partnership with the Monroe County Public Library), which allows incarcerated individuals to be recorded reading a book to their child(ren) and then the recording and book is sent to the child(ren) free of charge.

### *Outside the Jail:*

Once folks are released from incarceration, we encourage them to come to our office for reentry support. Again, we assist individuals with whatever needs they have that we're able to accommodate, but common requests include:

- Free access to basic needs: clothing, shoes, hygiene kits, and "other" resources
  - \*Ponchos, hand warmers, etc. subject to availability
  - Reentry Kits: \*Includes a backpack, clothing, hygiene kit, bus tickets
  - Assistance with applying for treatment and/or transitional housing
  - Assistance with signing up for SNAP, HIP, and a free cell phone
  - Access to a phone, computers, and internet

- One-on-one reentry mentoring
- Proof of address form to obtain an Indiana ID
- Can use NLNL to receive mail
- Referrals for free haircuts
- Employment-related needs: resume, co cover letter, job search support,
- Bus tickets
- Reading glasses & prescription glasses
- Assistance with obtaining copies of birth certificates
- Referrals to Indiana Legal Services for assistance with criminal record expungement

### **New Leaf, New Life - 2023 Jail Programming Information:**

Number of workshops facilitated: **79**

- Reentry Planning Workshops
- Poetry Workshops
- Evolutionary Biology Workshops
- Read to Me Program

Number of inmates attending workshops: **303**

Number of community volunteers assisting with workshops/letters: **16-18**



## Letters from the Jail – Request Categories

Any individual incarcerated at the Monroe County Correctional Center (MCCC) can correspond with us through in-house mail. Meaning, we have our own mailbox inside the jail (which we check ~three times each week), so folks who are incarcerated do not need access to envelopes and postage to write to us.

- Total # of letters received from the MCCC:
  - 2019: 2,479
  - 2020: 2,335
  - 2021: 2,681
  - 2022: 2,164
  - **2023: 1,736**

Overall, we receive a variety of requests for support from individuals who are incarcerated. We've determined ten different categories/themes of requests we receive to determine what the greatest needs are of individuals who are incarcerated at the MCCC. The themes are explained below, along with the number of requests received per year in each category. It should be noted that when we receive one letter, it typically contains multiple requests, which is why the number of requests documented is greater than the number of letters we've received. It should also be noted that we're unable to fulfill all requests we receive (that are outlined below), as some requests are against the rules of the jail and others are impossible to complete while someone is incarcerated.

1. **Assistance with Treatment:** includes requests for applications, assistance with submitting applications, checking in on submitted applications, assistance with scheduling phone calls with treatment centers.
2. **Assistance with Housing:** includes any requests for assistance with obtaining housing. Includes info requests on rapid-rehousing, transitional housing, sober living, info on landlords that accept individuals with evictions, etc.
3. **Health, Wellness, & Spiritual Health:** includes requests for items such as print-outs of yoga poses, bible study resources, reading & prescription glasses, prayer mats, work outs using body weight, etc.
4. **Personal, Social, Entertainment:** includes requests for chess boards, print-outs of puzzles, coloring sheets, photos of family members, song lyrics, requests for someone to contact family members, etc.
5. **Legal Assistance:** includes requests for printing out case summaries and looking up future court dates (MyCase), requests for assistance with obtaining personal identification documents (birth certificates, ID's, social security cards, etc.)
6. **Living Essentials & Resource Guides:** includes requests for our Community Reentry Resource Guide, our Reentry Planning Workbook, reentry guides from other communities, and assistance with obtaining living essentials, such as food & clothing, once released.

7. **Education:** Includes assistance with obtaining proof of education, GED information, FAFSA application requests, etc.
8. **Employment:** Includes any requests pertaining to employment, such as paper applications, requests for assistance with resume/cover letters, etc.
9. **Financial Assistance:** Includes any requests related to finances, such as assistance with taxes, stimulus checks, and low-cost attorneys, etc.
10. **Assistance with Transportation:** Includes requests for assistance with transportation to out-of-town treatment/sober living facilities, other out-of-town court appointments, etc.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

### **Women Writing for (a) Change**

**By Laura Lasuertmer, Volunteer, New Leaf New Life, since 2010. Volunteer with Women Writing in the Jail, since 2011. Founder, Common Home Farm, a small, intentional community, in northern Monroe County:**

Notebooks and pencils are brought in for participants. Women Writing for a Change raises money to fund this program at the jail, and all of their outreach programs.

The program offers writing circles for women on Saturday afternoons and weekly writing circles for men on Tuesday mornings. Each circle is about an hour long. The number of participants varies greatly.

Men's Creative Writing met 45 times last year, and served an average of 8 participants each class, for a total of 360 participants (some repeat participants) last year.

Women's Creative Writing met 23 times last year, and served an average of 4 participants each class, for a total of 92 participants.

Women's Writing for a Change had two facilitators at each circle, so the volunteer hours are approximately 136 hours.

Notebooks were distributed to each participant.

#### **Feedback from Resident Creative Writing Participants:**

*"This work is highly amazing because it has changed people's lives for the better."*

*"Creative writing helps with our self-reflection and self-growth."*

*"(In writing circles, we are) able to relieve pent up stress, thoughts, worries and anxiety."*

*"Creative writing at the jail is my centering and grounding as I change my life. I find this class is growing on me and more writing is soul food. Thank you."*

*"(Writing circle is) a chance to open your mind to your inner greatness."*

## **Religious Programs**

Unchained Ministry, McCormick's Creek Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church, Shiloh Temple, and the Gideons provide religious services and religious support. Jumble provides a faith-based recovery class. The Correctional Center also has a part-time Chaplain who approves religious diets, inmate wedding bands, and provides rosaries and requests for certain bibles. He provides counseling if requested. He also obtains prayer rugs and items for religious purposes.

## **Recreation**

General population inmates are offered recreation daily and are taken to the indoor or outdoor recreation areas, depending on the temperature, (over 60 degrees), and weather conditions. Segregated inmates shall be offered the opportunity for physical exercise, five (5) days each week, outside of their cell unless jail officials find and document this opportunity will jeopardize the physical safety of the inmate or others or the security of the jail.

## **Rehabilitation/Resource Connections**

Our Corrections staff fields dozens of requests from inmates for connections with rehabilitation facilities or housing resources. After receiving a request, our staff removes the inmate from their housing area assignment and takes them to a space where they can have that conversation. In 2023, our staff facilitated 257 of those phone calls.

## **Mental Health**

### **The State of Mental Health Treatment at Monroe County Correctional Center**

**By Rhonda Shotwell, LCSW, and Jim Baugh, LCSW:**

The Monroe County Correctional Center is the largest mental health facility in the county and surrounding counties. Many of our inmates experience significant mental health and substance use issues. As mental health professionals, we are charged with assessing and determining treatment for inmates, patients, while they are in our care. Our main tasks include close observation rounds, altered mental status (AMS) rounds, segregation / mental health rounds, patient requests, psychiatric assessments and medication management, group programming, QMHP initiated, and referrals from other entities.

- Close observation rounds are completed daily for patients who have been identified as being at risk for suicide, homicide, or self-harm. Close observation rounds are crucial in the jail setting as suicide is the most prevalent means of death in this setting. Patients can also be placed on Mental Health Observation Status when they are experiencing concerning mental health symptoms without suicidality or thoughts of self-harm. Patients are assessed for risk and are placed accordingly in order to ensure safety in the least restricted environment.
- AMS rounds are completed daily for patients who arrive at the jail and appear to be under the influence of substances. Patients are assessed to determine if they are intoxicated so that they can attend court sober and make rational decisions.
- Segregation rounds / mental health rounds are conducted weekly. Patients who are housed on a locked down unit and are in a cell alone are seen at cell front in order to conduct a mental status assessment and determine if a more intensive assessment should be completed. Patients are more likely to mentally and emotionally decompensate with long periods of being alone.
- Patients submit requests if they desire to speak with a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP). Patients are seen privately in a conference room for mental health assessments and for mental health sessions. With two conference rooms for the jail, there is sometimes not an available room.
- Patients with mental health needs which require medication are seen by the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (NP). The NP assesses mental health diagnoses and prescribes psychotropic medications, if indicated. Patients are followed by the NP during their stay at the jail.

- DBT Informed groups are provided on the Special Needs Unit on a weekly basis.
- The QMHPs meet with patients who are taking psychotropic medications on a quarterly basis in order to check mental status and assess for psychotropic medication side effects.
- Patients can be referred to mental health by medical and custody staff. Our custody staff is experienced in recognizing mental health symptoms and refers patients often.

Current challenges include limited housing for acute patients, appropriate housing and programming for patients with mental health and substance use needs, and discharge planning.

The large number of patients with severe mental illness and substance use has led to significant challenges as the jail was not built with these populations in mind. As individuals with serious mental illness are brought into our facility, they often are not taking the medications that they have been prescribed. In addition, they may be using other illegal substances in an attempt to self-medicate. The individual may be exhibiting behaviors that are not conducive to housing with other inmates. At the current facility, there are six segregation cells and one padded cell which are used to house inmates separately for any number of reasons, including mental health, suicidality, substance intoxication or withdraw, medical, and correctional reasons. These cells are at a premium and often inmates must be moved around in an attempt to accommodate everyone's needs.

The goal at MCCC is for our patients to be released in a better circumstance than when they arrived. Mental Health works in conjunction with nursing and custody staff to stabilize patients upon arrival. Patients with mental health needs can have current medications continued at the facility. If medications are not current, or if patients have not been on psychotropic medications and demonstrate need, they are assessed by mental health and, if indicated, referred to the psychiatric provider. Nursing addresses acute medical needs upon arrival, begins current medications, and completes a physical at two weeks. Custody staff works to maintain safety of inmates and staff.

Inmates (patients) with mental health needs are often housed alone on a 23/1 basis as they may struggle to interact with peers in proximity. Social isolation may lead to increased mental health symptoms. The jail's mental health block, which houses a majority of our male patients with more severe mental health needs, was established over a year ago. Housing mental health patients together in a single unit helps prevent victimization by other inmates and allows them to be monitored more closely by mental health staff.

Programming for those with mental illness was started in January, 2024. The mental health unit is a two-tier system. The top tier is for those with higher acuity who struggle to interact with others appropriately. The lower tier is higher functioning patients and they are out for extended periods as a group. They attend DBT Informed Group and are learning skills to regulate emotions and interact more effectively with others. MCCC currently has two full time QMHPs and a Psychiatric NP who prescribes medications. We are hopeful that the jail will add an additional QMHP, a substance use counselor, and a discharge planner / case manager.

MCCC has many repeat patients. Patients with mental illness and substance use disorders are arrested often for low level offenses, fail to follow up with their probation officer, or bounce from county to county. Mental health patients are stabilized in the jail; however, find it difficult to have consistent follow up when released. Often, they then stop taking their medications, and reoffend. Patients with substance use disorders often return to the same environment (people, places, and things) and return to substance use. This leads to a high rate of recidivism. Case management in the jail will help ensure that patients have supports in the community when they are released. Continuation of medication management supports to help a patient to stay sober, assistance in securing housing and employment, and assistance in securing food all help to reduce the recidivism rates.

In response to the needs of the jail, a wish list of features for the new jail would include:

- An increased number of segregation and padded cells, so that patients in distress can be closely monitored to ensure safety.
- A mental health unit and a substance use unit which can focus on the unique needs of these populations and provide programming in the unit.
- Individual offices for QMHPs so that patients can be seen in a private setting, without the limitations the conference rooms provide.
- A dedicated mental health custody staff member to monitor, from outside the offices, mental health sessions and be in the units when mental health / substance use groups are taking place.
- AA / NA meetings in the jail, so that patients may have supports in the community upon their release.

In conclusion, we expect mental, medical, and substance use needs of patients in the jail to increase in this community. Modern jails cannot do business as it has been done in the past. We need to be forward thinking and anticipate future needs. Our hope is that design changes, more intense treatment and programming, and case management to address needs upon return to the community will lower recidivism rates and, ultimately, the number of people incarcerated.

<b>2023</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>AMS</b>	<b>Segregation</b>	<b>Patient Init.</b>	<b>Custody Init.</b>	<b>Medical Init.</b>	<b>QMHP Init.</b>	<b>Psych Visit</b>
Jan.	112	103	107	18	3	2	1	20
Feb.	165	65	101	18	4	0	1	11
March	188	76	80	17	5	1	8	24
April	180	61	116	13	0	4	3	24
May	172	81	125	12	2	1	4	27
June	135	53	169	19	2	0	2	19
July	121	74	153	21	2	0	1	12
Aug.	129	102	122	21	4	2	3	26
Sept.	106	71	155	21	6	2	0	19
Oct.	158	64	115	24	7	1	5	20
Nov.	168	71	106	30	3	0	0	29
Dec.	141	62	136	25	7	0	2	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1775</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>1485</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>254</b>

All: 4724

<b>2022</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>AMS</b>	<b>Segregation</b>	<b>Patient Init.</b>	<b>Custody Init.</b>	<b>Medical Init.</b>	<b>QMHP Init.</b>	<b>Psychiatry</b>
Jan.	181	0	120	33	7	5	0	0
Feb.	114	0	145	28	0	1	0	0
March	164	0	197	31	2	0	0	0
April	130	0*	127	22	8	0	1	0**
May	129	8	134	32	5	0	8	15
June	170	84	120	32	2	1	3	24
July	143	79	108	22	2	0	1	15
Aug.	180	80	146	31	4	3	7	25
Sept.	208	76	115	25	2	0	0	25
Oct.	156	53	112	21	1	0	4	20
Nov.	151	62	152	17	0	0	8	25
Dec.	143	61	115	9	0	0	3	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1726</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>154</b>

All: 4355

\*Monthly data was not collected on “AMS” (Altered Mental Status) in 2022 until May.



**\*\*Monthly data was not collected on Psychiatry referrals in 2022 until May.**  
“Observation” data are inmates who are placed on suicide watch or mental health watch. “Segregation” data are the number of inmates housed alone or on 23/1 status due to safety concerns for them or others. “Patient Init.” are patient--initiated requests to see Mental Health Staff. “Custody Init.” are Correctional Officer initiated referrals for an inmate to see our mental health staff. “Medical Init.” are medical staff-initiated mental health referrals of inmates and QMHP Init. are inmate referrals by Qualified Mental Health Professionals. Psychiatry data includes numbers of inmates referred to and seen by a Nurse Practitioner.

### **A Statement on Maintenance and Upkeep of the Jail:**

A new roof has been put on the Justice Center. All of the cell blocks and individual cells were refurbished and sanitized. The washing machine drains were replaced. The faucet hardware was replaced throughout the kitchen. The fifth-floor shower floors were repaired. The first floor control room was updated with new countertops, a new video display, and a property intake and packaging area was created. A wall was removed in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor court processing area to expand the occupancy and utility of that space. The plumbing was replaced on the 3-bay sink in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor kitchen. A no longer operable commercial dryer was replaced. Clean outs were installed on all cell window grates to enable cleaning access. Our S-Series servers were repaired.

The jail locks and jail doors are past their life expectancy. Many pipes are not accessible without knocking down walls. Dave Gardner, Chief Operating Officer of our Maintenance Contractor (ASI), reported the following:

***“HVAC:*** *The system was designed for 128 inmates and installed before CFM requirements were put in for proper ventilations. We struggle to keep the jail from being too hot or too cold in areas.*

***Electrical:*** *Most of our panels are full and we can’t add circuits for new equipment without adding piggyback breakers.*

***Plumbing:*** *a. In 1984 copper pipe was made with some issues in materials. We are finding pin holes in our system due to the materials used at the time of construction.*

*b. The lines are also failing because of age and 24/7 uses since 1984. Typical buildings run 8-12 hours a day our building never stops and with the jail on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floor plumbing is flowing all through the building constantly. Hot water is made on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor and is continually running on a pump to keep hot water at each floor.*

1. Heating and cooling loops run from 1<sup>st</sup> floor mechanical to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor mechanical. They are 6" pipes that run with about 15 psi continually. If they have any failures, it can be catastrophic.
2. The sanitary system never stops. We have had numerous 8" lines give way from constant use and abuse. We have our kitchen on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor with grease coming down the lines until 2019 when a grease trap was installed. We run drain snakes down the system on a weekly basis for inmate vandalism.
- c. Roof drains from a flat roof run from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor all the way through the building to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. We have seen many signs of cracks and leaks. Over the years with add-ons and repairs we are finding most lines are back fed. Even when you shut off the lines you can't stop the flow of water from another location.
- d. We have seen many of the old gate valves and shut off fail to close. This causes great concern when doing routine maintenance and often leads to shutting the building completely down or freezing lines to make simple changes.

***Building:***

- a. Windows are failing and allowing air flow. We have had them tuck pointed in the last two years to help with this.
- b. The size of our facility is of great concern. We do not have adequate space to hold inmate property, inmate classes, and programs space.
- c. We don't have space for the trash and recycling this facility creates.
- d. Parking is always a problem. (This is true for employees on 1<sup>st</sup> shift and visitors to the building.)
- e. Elevator
  - i. Worn out- only one- no back up.
  - ii. Numerous breakdowns lead to many complications for the jail: logistics, security, food/product delivery, inmate movement and safety.

***Security:***

*The cell doors and locks are out of life. We are welding doors from complete failure. Locks are faulty and not able to be repaired in some instances. When you put a new lock in because the doors are so worn you can spend 4 or 5 hours getting the door to operate properly."*

**A Statement on the Adequacy of Jail Staffing Levels:**

In 2023, 11 Jail Deputies and 1 administrative staff member separated employment from the Correctional Center, representing a 14.6% turnover rate for full time Correctional Center staff. At present, (March of 2024), we are fully staffed with full-time personnel.

## **Unfunded Needs and Projects Essential for Jail Operation and Maintenance**

There is only one jail elevator which is utilized for *all* regular daily movement between floors. It has been out of service approximately 20 times over the past year. It is past its expected life. An estimated \$30,000.00 in repairs have been made in the past year. It is estimated it will cost approximately \$250,000.00 to modernize the elevator with an anticipated 8-12 weeks of down time for that service.

J-Block, with 16 cells and 32 beds, has been repurposed into a mental health dorm. Cameras should be installed in each cell. Our two jail conference rooms lack video and audio capabilities. There are numerous blind spots requiring cameras in the correctional center. These projects will require cabling to be installed and additional video storage capacity. An estimate was obtained from SAS for \$94,575.00 in 2023 to add 19 cameras.

These proposed improvements exposed further deficiencies. Greg Crohn, the Chief Technology Officer/Director of Monroe County Technical Services reported in a letter to Sheriff Marté in August of 2023:

*"As you may or may not be aware, the camera system in the jail is tied directly into the SAS controls for the doors, cell blocks, elevator, etcetera. The cameras and recording server are in excess of 15 years old and are obsolete. The power supplies and wiring for the cameras are original to the facilities construction, have heavily deteriorated and are systematically failing. The most recent of which is a camera in the elevator. I don't have to tell you that the confined space creates a security concern for your officers as is. Even more so when the camera is not working. The server that houses the recordings is failing and unstable. We have been replacing hard drives in the system at an alarming rate and at considerable monetary cost.*

*ASI (who has gone well above and beyond their scope of work) TSD, and B-Tech Ssecurity has tried to find a way to make old tech work with new tech. Again, at a monetary cost to my office, and a disruption to the Jail's activities. Unfortunately we have not been successful.*

*Understandably, Jail Command wants these issues corrected ASAP. All of this is not new news. I have discussed the failing state of the system with Commander Gibbons and Major Demmings on more than one occasion. I'm letting you know that there isn't a simple fix for the current system. Before it goes completely down, the Jail should be*

*looking to have the entire camera system replaced by SAS. I have no doubt that this will come at considerable cost and disruption. But this cannot wait any longer. We have exceeded the critical point. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I'm happy to meet with any and all interested personnel to discuss. Thank you. Greg Crohn."*

**Additional Quotes for technology needs:** (Quotes are from September of 2023)

- Upgrade of 3 control station PC's installed in 2016 as the current operating system is no longer supported: \$20,452.00
- Replacement of the data logging server: ADD \$5520.00
- Replacement of touchscreen monitors: ADD \$1980.00

**The Average Length of Stay for all Inmates housed in the Jail**

The average length of stay as of December 31, 2023 for all inmates housed in the jail in 2023 was 15 days and 11 hours.