

The new Monroe County Indiana Jail Commander, Kyle Gibbons, invited the group Care Not Cages ( via Sydney ) to visit the Jail to see the changes being made to make the place more humane.

The previous Sheriff, with the assistance from the County Commissioners and by some obfuscation of the County Council ( limited tours, access ) and of the public had let the facility go to ruin. And most importantly treated all of the people inside as seriously violent people.

Besides the decades of dirt, there were policies in place which confined people to a cell for 23 hours a day. The plumbing was in disrepair, with clogged and non-functional toilets and drains, leaky pipes and water corrosion to the fittings of the showers. The roof failed and was not repaired.

The meals are delivered to the people in the cell and had years of food grim accumulated on the access through the door which is called a "bean hole." It was unclear but seemed as if all programs offerings were halted a few years ago, during the pandemic, and not restarted. Family visits, visits in general are only available via the expensive video and telephone systems.

When I visited the jail, I saw that processing and people awaiting processing were on the first floor close to the "sally port".

( Note from Google: The purpose of a sally port is to deter, defend, and delay against unwanted entry (or exit). )

Perhaps this design is suppose to reduce the amount of force required to transport people from the police vehicle to "detox" and two holding areas. Also on the first floor is a unused "reentry dorm" housing 12 or so bunks and a small living area.

This design allows correctional officers time make the necessary preparations for

inclusion and then, separation from the community of people living in the jail.

Commander Gibbons said a few times that the intake process is an important part of acclimatizing people for their stay as inmates. Later from community members on the NewsFeed of CareNotCages I learned that the Centerstone organization once had a grant to utilize the "reentry dorm" but a funding issue prevented it from continuing.

The third and fourth floors housed all other people, I think. The elevator is the primary means of access and exit to/from the upper levels. We also used keyed stairwells.

Whether awaiting trial or serving time, people were placed into ( I think ) three categories and physical areas - minimum, maximum or segregated quarters and then three gender categories male, female or trans people. I am not sure of the policies regarding the placement of trans people in this facility.

The layout is odd, with ( "C", "D" ) blocks - which have two floors and 32 beds. and not easily described without further review. Additionally, there is a "work" block, for meal preparation and laundry. This area had music playing in the laundry room, and people cleaning the kitchen - and incarcerated people moving freely around the entire area. There is one "classroom" centrally located and can be configured as one large room or two smaller rooms. GED prep classes were being held with two people attending. Commander Gibbons commented that new office furniture was being unloaded and that there are plans to update the classroom technology with whiteboards and updates to the tables and chairs.

I heard Commander Gibbons comment that the layout of this facility has challenges but is feasible. He knows of other facilities which have a preferred "pod" design.

The cleanup of the floors was ongoing and there are more maintenance tasks to be performed before the Commander moves from an emergency repair status to an operational status.

\*The RFQ presentations by the jail construction companies for a new jail facility have been recently completed even as the location for the facility is still unknown.

Key takeaways :

- \* Nothing was known or discussed about the Stride Center or the efforts toward directing police officers or people to that Crisis Response Center.
- I felt that people with felony charges are lumped together and, IMHO, stigmatized.
- It was Commander Gibbons' opinion that adequate health care services are being provided by Advanced Correctional Health (ACH) , including:
  - on staff nurses,
  - transport to/from medical appointments and
  - timely continuation of prescriptions during incarceration.
- Video surveillance is complete. Meaning there was not a time that I felt that I was not being watch, which was later confirmed by the monitoring in Commander Gibbons office.