



WINNESHIEK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

305 MONTGOMERY SUITE #3 DECORAH, IOWA 52101
(563) 382-4662 (563) 387-4121
email: wcphns@winneshiekhealth.org
website: winneshiekhealth.org

April 12, 2023

Delbert Longley
State Department of Corrections
Jesse Parker Bldg
510 E. 12th St
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Mr. Longley,

The annual Winneshiek County Jail Tour to the Winneshiek County Board of Health members was conducted on March 8, 2023 by Jeanne Sebastian, Jail Administrator. Winneshiek County Board of Health members present included: Jay Elsbernd, DVM; Janet Ryan, MD; and Tim Cronin. Krista Vanden Brink, Winneshiek County Public Health Administrator and Recording Secretary was also present.

The jail has plans for a quick remodel of the kitchen. They plan to remove an island and replace it with a stainless steel workstation. All the food is prepared by jail staff following a 4-week rotation of meal plans. Inmates are served a hot lunch each day. Breakfasts and suppers are cold meals. Jail staff make meal accommodations as needed for inmates with a medically prescribed meal plan. Staff work to ensure that inmates with continuous glucose monitors and pumps receive appropriate carbohydrates to prevent low blood sugars. This can be an issue if the inmate purposely increases their insulin dose. Jail staff do a good job monitoring for this.

The safety cell continues to be an asset to the jail. Members had the opportunity to visualize the safety cell to have a better understanding of the purpose. Members also saw the restraint chair and learned more about the few times it is used. It was good to learn that there are many laws that need to be followed pertaining to the use of the chair including that staff must start the process to release the individual shortly after initiation.

Board members were pleased that the jail is able to retain many of its employees through strong education offerings. Currently there is a need for an additional jailer and members can appreciate that the need for jailers is higher in other counties. Board members recognize the staffing challenges the environment can bring especially when many of the inmates have some type of a mental health issue.

Members learned more about the services County Social Services can offer, telehealth services, counseling for inmates, jail diversion services and technology inmates have access to. Jail staff answered other questions from Board members. Overall, the Winneshiek County Jail is a secure facility with dedicated staff who provide safe, appropriate and exceptional care to the inmates. The staff are to be commended for their efforts.

Sincerely,



Jay Elsbernd, DVM

Chair

Winneshiek County Board of Health

Cc: Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors
Jeanne Sebastian, Winneshiek County Jail Administrator
Dan Marx, Winneshiek County Sheriff
Jeff Berns, Winneshiek County Chief Deputy