

From the Sheriff:

The Dodge County Detention Facility (DCDF) is the largest of the several divisions within the Sheriff's Department. The Administrator is Molly Soblewski who relies upon the help of Deputy Jail Administrators Tom Polsin and Kevin Hill. The mission statement of the DCDF, in part, requires of the staff, "to provide for the safety and security of all users, while being run in a cost effective manner."

Safety and security are words often used in discussions amongst correctional professionals and are accomplished on a variety of levels. At the new DCDF we have never had a staff member injured as a result of an inmate attack. We also have very few incidents of contraband within the facility. The staff is well trained and conducts themselves in a very professional manner. The classification system we use was designed to promote acceptable, compliant behavior. That behavior is then rewarded with additional program options, a softer living environment, and a wider freedom of movement within the facility. Consequently, those who refuse to comply are very restricted. This system has significantly improved the safety for everyone within the facility as well as teaching the inmates the value of rule compliance. Unfortunately there are still individuals that choose to refuse all attempts at compliance. Because of this potential for violence we have had to upgrade our equipment used for restraint and diffusion.

Besides the benefits of compliance listed above, inmates at the highest classification level are also eligible for a wide variety of work assignments. To remain cost effective, the jail hires inmates to clean, assist with meal preparation, work in the laundry, and provides help to dozens of projects within the community. Conservatively, the jail saves \$375,000 per year in tax payer money by having the inmates work inside and outside the facility. Again, the classification system provides for the accurate selection of inmates for these programs. In turn, the programs are successful because of this selective process. Our program officers are tasked with the classification and oversight of those inmates involved. As always, if a subject chooses to break the rules established for a program, his classification status is changed and he once again must earn his way to the top. After a recent State inspection of the facility, the State Jail Inspector wrote, "The ability of the Sheriff's Department to place inmates in these sites and the willingness of prisoners to work is very commendable. It truly is a win-win situation."

Between the main jail and the Huber center, we average 420 inmates per day. Of that number, approximately 67% are detained here by the US Marshall's Service (USMS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Our ability to maintain this number of contract beds has provided enormous financial windfall for the county. In the last three years the revenue for contract beds has exceeded \$20,000,000. To maintain this level, we have begun diversifying our population by contracting with other counties, in addition to the federal contracts.

You might be thinking, "This sounds like big business, not a county jail." And you would be right. Dodge County is in a unique position to produce revenue in tandem with providing a correctional facility to house inmates sentenced through our court system. The staff provides for the safety and security of all users, and the administration determines and oversees cost effective measures for the facility; that is our mission statement in action. Thanks for listening tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us.