

## Module 3

### Facility Oversight and Concepts

#### JAIL CONCEPTS

**3.1.0 Unit Goal: Summarize the state regulatory agencies that are statutorily charged with oversight of jailers, facilities, and jail concepts.**

**3.1.1 Describe the duties and responsibilities of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).**

- A. The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement is a state regulatory agency for law enforcement and county correctional officers within the state of Texas. TCOLE is charged with the responsibility of establishing, implementing, and maintaining minimum standards for peace officers, reserve peace officers, county correctional officers, emergency communications personnel, and law enforcement instructors.
- B. TCOLE has a wide range of responsibilities to include:
  - 1. Developing and implementing curriculum, conducting general law enforcement and legal research.
  - 2. Prosecuting officer violations, administering licensing exams and certificates, honoring and memorializing peace officer service.
  - 3. Evaluating academies and training providers, maintaining the officer record-keeping system Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Data Distribution System (TCLEDDS), and providing intergovernmental assistance.

**3.1.2 Describe the duties and responsibilities of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS).**

- A. The Texas Commission on Jail Standards is the regulatory agency for all county jails and privately-operated municipal jails in the state. The Texas Legislature created TCJS to implement a declared state policy requiring all county jail facilities to conform to a set of minimum standards of construction, maintenance, and operation.
- B. TCJS has a wide range of responsibilities to include:
  - 1. Writing rules and procedures that establish minimum standards, inspection procedures, enforcement policies, and technical assistance for:
    - a. The construction, equipment, maintenance, and operation of jail facilities under its jurisdiction
    - b. The custody, care, and treatment of inmates
    - c. Programs of rehabilitation, education, and recreation for inmates confined in county and municipal jail facilities under its jurisdiction

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2. County and municipal jails operated under vendor contract.
3. Counties, municipalities, and private vendors housing out-of-state inmates.
4. The count, payment, and transfer of inmates when precipitated by crowded conditions.

#### 3.1.3 Identify three primary construction concepts of jails.

- A. Linear - Linear hallways bordered by cells typically joined to a centralized administrative area.
  1. This operational design impedes surveillance as it requires jail staff conduct mobile patrols to observe and hear what is occurring in inmate cells.
  2. More correctional officers are required to provide increased surveillance.
  3. Example: This would be a traditional “cell block” in which officers conduct visual face to face observations.
- B. Podular Indirect - Cells form the perimeter around a common area, where the officer(s) is located relatively close to the cells to hear and observe what is occurring.
  1. The podular indirect facilities have improved visibility compared to the linear design.
  2. This design has more physical barriers and requires more vandal-proof equipment and furnishings.
  3. Example: This would be a “dorm style” layout with the officer(s) outside of the dorm with direct view into the dorm.
- C. Podular Direct - Cells may form the perimeter around a common area.
  1. The officer(s) are located within the common area, allowing the officer to hear and observe what is occurring.
  2. The podular direct facilities have improved visibility compared to the linear design.
  3. This design has less physical barriers and as a result, requires less vandal-proof equipment and furnishings than the podular indirect construction.
  4. Example: This would be a “dorm style” layout with the officer(s) inside the dorm along with inmates.

**Instructor Note:** Instructor will provide visual examples of each jail concept.

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#### **3.1.4 Identify two primary supervision styles utilized in jails.**

- A. Indirect Supervision – An inmate supervision management style in which officer(s) are stationed outside a housing unit.
- B. Direct Supervision – An inmate supervision management style in which officer(s) are stationed inside a housing unit 24 hours per day.

#### **3.1.5 Identify the role of jailer(s) in effectively supervising inmates.**

- A. Supervisor – Officers must function in the role of supervisor of inmates and are most effective when they use all their senses to stay aware of inmate activity.
  - 1. A staff-to-inmate ratio of, at most, 1:48 is required. This allows the officer to remain in control of the unit.
- B. Leader – Officers must not only supervise, but they must also make clear their role as leaders.
  - 1. In county jails, as well as the general population, it is natural to look for leadership, should it not exist. If the correctional officers do not claim a leadership role, inmates will assume it themselves, which typically leads to violence and brutality.
  - 2. Once lost, leadership is often very difficult to regain. Officers are responsible for the safety of staff and inmates. This is critical to the mission of the facility, as well as public expectation.

#### **3.1.6 Discuss staff-inmate relations.**

- A. Staff-inmate relations
  - 1. Improved through:
    - a. Professionalism of staff
    - b. "Firm but fair" conduct
    - c. Humane treatment
    - d. Effective communication
    - e. Resolving problems or situations before they turn into a major investigation

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2. Effects of improved staff-inmate relations:
  - a. Improved morale
  - b. Good rapport
  - c. Fewer disciplinary infractions
  - d. Improved jail climates

#### **3.1.7 Define jail climate.**

- A. Jail climate - the prevailing behavioral atmosphere throughout the jail facility.
- B. Staff's control of jail climate
  1. Professional and ethical staff attitude and behavior
  2. Good staff-inmate communications
  3. Provision of clean-living conditions, quality food, and adequate medical care
  4. Provision of opportunities for visitation and recreation
  5. Consistent enforcement of facility rules

**Instructor Note:** Review Penal Codes Sec. 21.01, Sec. 39.03, and Sec. 39.04

- a. Penal Code, Sec. 39.03 – Official Oppression
- b. Penal Code, Sec. 39.04 – Violations of The Civil Rights of Person in Custody; Improper Sexual Activity with Person in Custody or Under Supervision
  - 1) Sexual Contact
  - 2) Sexual Intercourse
  - 3) Deviate Sexual Intercourse