



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Office of the State Inspector General

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The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin,

The Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) conducted an unannounced inspection of State Farm Correctional Center (State Farm). This report includes a summary of the factors listed in *Code of Virginia* § 53.1-17.6 (B), recommendations, safety and compliance classification, recommended timeline for the next inspection, and the Virginia Department of Corrections Director's response to the inspection.

Inspection Report: State Farm Correctional Center March 14, 2025 at 8:20 a.m.

Background

State Farm Correctional Center is a medium security facility located in Powhatan, Virginia. Inmates must meet certain criteria to be housed here, to include no escape history within the past five years. Inmates housed may have single or multiple life sentences while in a medium security facility. Eligible inmates are encouraged to participate in rehabilitation, reintegration programs, education, training, and employment opportunities. These programs include: Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abusers, Decision Points, Dialogue Skills Training, Family Reunification, Thinking for a Change, Anger Management - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Cognitive Community Peer Mentor Program, Effective Practices in Correctional Setting, Adult Basic Education/General Education Development (ABE/GED), Citizenship Journal, Plumbing, and Re-entry Seminars (finances, planning, and employment).

The facility can house up to 710 male inmates in five housing units. At the time of the inspection 670 male inmates were housed at the facility. The facility inspection was completed with the

Assistant Warden, Corrections Lieutenant, Program Manager, and Unit Manager. The Warden was not present due to being on leave at the time of inspection; however, the Warden participated in the debrief via telephone at the conclusion of the inspection. The inspection included dialogue with staff and management, observation of the prison's physical environment and daily operations, and conversations with inmates. Additional oversight areas included food services, housing units, recreation areas, intake and visitation spaces, laundry, programs/services area, administrative offices, medical and dental areas, storage area, control room, and the outer perimeter. Outdoor recreation options included gardening, basketball, cornhole, soccer, and volleyball.

Safety/Security

The facility has the following security procedures in place: exterior roaming patrol, body scanner, phone detection, and a pat down/frisk search to screen staff, inmates, and visitors. The perimeter is double fenced with razor wire and is augmented with cameras and an elevated tower to monitor outside movements. Fire extinguishers observed on the property were up to date with monthly inspections. Fire extinguishers were accessible to staff throughout the facility. An inspector noted that one fire extinguisher in the security booth of housing unit one was manufactured in 2012.

The Assistant Warden reported all facility cameras were functioning at the time of inspection. The Assistant Warden stated that cameras are inspected weekly by a technician for operability and if any camera is identified for repair, it is reported to the regional office. The camera system can be viewed in the control room and the offices of the Warden, Assistant Warden, and assigned supervisors. Additionally, all supervisors and above are assigned a body-worn camera that is activated according to the Department of Correction's Operating Procedure 430.6.

Staffing

The Warden reported that the facility has a total of 311 security and non-security staff members. There are 43 vacant security positions and 23 vacant non-security positions. Inspectors noted current staff to be knowledgeable in their areas of responsibility and responsive to questions. Inspectors noted that despite vacant on-site ABE/GED instructors, State Farm continues to provide the necessary education services to inmates.

Medical

Upon an inmate's intake to this facility, the medical services unit ensures each inmate's medical history is properly coded and a screening is completed with the inmate to discuss medical and behavioral health needs. Medical request forms are available to inmates; a doctor is on-site every day and a registered nurse is on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dental services are available every day. Additionally, an Optomistrist is available two times a month. Medical and dental x-ray and ultrasound services are also available on-site. The on-site provider indicated that

if an inmate requests a sick visit, they can be seen the next day. State Farm also coordinates and transports inmates to their respective appointments outside of the facility.

Housing

State Farm has five housing units with two sides (A/B) per unit that can accommodate up to 76 inmates per side. State Farm can house up to 12 inmates in the Restorative Housing Unit (RHU). Housing units inspected included units one, six, and the RHU. The inspected units were equipped with sufficient mattresses and linens. Inmates on housing unit one, A side, reported only having access to pillows on a first-come, first-served basis. Inmates appeared to have appropriate and adequate clothing. Upon intake, each inmate is provided with all necessary and appropriate clothing, linens, and hygiene items. The interior temperature was appropriate for the season.

Each housing unit included up to five sinks with mirrors, four toilets, two urinals, and six shower heads. Showers and sinks had appropriate hot and cold water to ensure safety and promote hygienic practices. The shower area of housing unit one, A side, had the appearance of hard water stains and accumulation of dust and moisture in the ventilation system. Inspectors observed what appeared to be a mold-like substance behind the bunk locker of bed #4 in housing unit six, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) side. The Assistant Warden noted the issue and initiated the work order process. This facility has a pest control program administered monthly by a safety officer. The housing units inspected had four telephones, one video visitation kiosk, and one JPay kiosk. All phones were functional at the time of the inspection. One JPay kiosk could not connect to the inmate tablets, but was otherwise operational.

Food Services

Meals are served in the "chow hall," which was equipped with 27 stationary tables, each seating four people and four additional stationary tables to accommodate wheelchairs. Monthly food menus are posted in the housing units. The infirmary unit has meals delivered in a heated and insulated cart. Compartmented trays come with white plastic lids to maintain temperature and prevent contamination. Inspectors observed inmates working and preparing lunch in the kitchen, all wearing hair nets, aprons, and plastic gloves. However, one kitchen employee was observed handling a tray of food without gloves. Inspectors were present for meal service that included peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, potato wedges, glazed carrots, fruit, and dessert. This meal matched what was posted on the standardized menu. The facility dishwasher and multiple kitchen sinks had leaks that resulted in ponding throughout the kitchen area. Wet floor signs were observed throughout the kitchen for inmate and staff safety.

Sanitation

The housing units appeared properly sanitized. Each housing unit has designated inmate workers who sweep and mop the housing area once daily with detergent or germicidal agent. All waste

was properly contained and disposed of in a sanitary manner. Common area toilets and sinks are sanitized as needed by inmates. The corrections officer assigned to housing unit six showed the inspectors the cleaning supplies stored in a secured designated closet. Inmates have supervised access to the supply closet and cleaning agents, germicide, soap, paper towels, and other necessary supplies to keep their space clean.

State Farm has a weekly laundry schedule for washing state issued bed linens. Each housing unit provides a washer and dryer for inmate personal belongings. The facility is equipped with four large commercial washers and dryers to process facility linens. At the time of inspection, one of the dryers was out of service and awaiting repair.

Accessibility to Complaint, Grievance, and Administrative Forms

Complaint, regular grievance, and emergency grievance forms are available and accessible to inmates within their assigned housing unit security booth. Inmates are instructed to advise the assigned security booth officer of their form request and the officer provides the appropriate form. Forms are then placed in the respective drop-off box by inmates outside of their housing unit. Other available forms include: Facility Request Form, Property Disposition Form, and Commissary Form. In RHU, a memorandum to the inmate population regarding the inmate grievance hotline availability and accessibility along with instructions to access was posted on a RHU door.

The facility is in the process of establishing a grievance box deposit system in the main courtyard area. Once the grievance box deposit system becomes available, the forms can be submitted without staff assistance. Emergency requests are still required to be submitted to the nearest staff member for immediate attention. OSIG has not received any complaints regarding this facility since the establishment of the OSIG Ombudsman Unit.

Additional Information

The information below was provided subsequent to the inspection:

Staffing: Currently, the facility has 206 security staff and 105 non-security staff positions.

Number of staff who received disciplinary actions in the past year: 14.

Average number of service years for security staff: Seven years.

Most recent lockdown: February 25-28, 2025.

Number of inmate-to-inmate physical assaults at the facility in the last year: 10.

Number of sexual assaults at the facility in the last year: 0.

Number of video visitation requests at the facility in the last year: 6,498.

Number of video visitation denials at the facility in the last year: 71 denials, due to disciplinary offenses.

Number of in-person visitation requests at the facility in the last year: 3,572.

Number of in-person visitation denials at the facility in the last year: 32 denials, due to not having documentation of pregnancy and was unable to use body scanner, minor children not being listed for visitation, not wearing appropriate clothing, and anomalies on the body scanner.

Key Findings

- Inmates with a GED reported a lack of internal employment opportunities and limited specialty programs, such as the plumbing program, which only accepts six inmates.
- There are health and safety concerns in the shower and housing areas, with issues related to ventilation and the possible mold-like substance found in housing unit six.
- Many plumbing issues were observed throughout the facility including leaking sinks and toilets in the housing areas, along with ponding water in the kitchen from leaking dishwasher and sinks.
- While the lighting throughout the facility was appropriate; inspectors noted several four-foot fluorescent tube lights that were non-functioning, specifically in housing unit one, the dining area, and kitchen area.
- The Warden advised the facility is in the process of initiating a total roof replacement in the kitchen due to age and condition.
- The RHU will be completing a renovation project to increase the size of the window view of each cell door to improve inmate safety and well being.

Inspector Comments

This inspection is not intended to assess compliance with the legislative or regulatory requirements, nor assess compliance with Corrections policies; though both may be considered where relevant.

State Farm staff were helpful and assisted by answering the inspectors' questions. Staff were courteous and open to facilitating the inspection of the entire facility. Inmates were respectful to inspectors. Overall, both staff and inmates seemed satisfied with the environment at the facility.

Recommendations

The inmate dining area had missing and broken plexiglass light covers and two broken windows. This was reported to the Assistant Warden for repair and to ensure safety of staff and inmates.

This office recommends that the Department of Corrections Operating Procedure 303.2, *Fire Safety and Response Plan* specify when a fire extinguisher should be removed from service.

The inspection team noted the facility had multiple open corrective actions from their most recent Department of Health Food Establishment Inspection. One specific item was the dishwasher that required a new gasket seal on the front door and a heat booster to adequately

sanitize the dishes to a required temperature. The inspection team recommends addressing the numerous plumbing issues that were noted above in the key findings section.

Dust accumulation in the ventilation system should be cleaned on a preventative maintenance schedule to address further buildup and improve internal air quality and efficiency of HVAC systems. Additional facility repairs needed include: replacing or securing missing and hanging ceiling tiles in the housing units and replacing broken toilet seat lids. Replacing torn/short shower curtains in the shower/bathroom area would provide a higher level of functionality and privacy to inmates. State Farm staff reported many items had been entered into the internal work order system and have been outstanding for many weeks.

Facility Classification

Tier III - The facility has adequate conditions of confinement and programming options requiring an inspection within the next 36 months.

DOC Response

The VADOC appreciates the thorough inspection of State Farm Correctional Center and welcomes the opportunity to work with OSIG to identify areas of improvement. All recommendations have been addressed as set forth below.

A special order was placed for the broken plexiglass light covers, and new plexiglass windows were installed on May 14, 2025.

The VADOC is in compliance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) and conducts regular inspections of fire extinguishers, in addition to the annual inspections conducted by the State Fire Marshal's Office. It is unclear whether this recommendation is to specify a number of years after which a fire extinguisher must be replaced, or to specify under what circumstances a fire extinguisher must be replaced; regardless, the Department takes this recommendation under advisement.

The open corrective action plans were addressed, and all repairs completed. The dishwasher gaskets were replaced, and a heat booster was installed.

Plumbing repairs took place on April 1, 2025, and again on May 8, 2025. These repairs included the following specific items observed during the inspection: leaking sinks, toilets, and the dishwasher. In addition, ongoing preventive maintenance is conducted weekly on sinks and toilets.

The facility implemented a cleaning and maintenance schedule that addresses dust accumulation in the ventilation system and concerns with the showers; specifically, vents will be cleaned and

vacuumed, and showers will be power washed on a weekly basis (this is in addition to the cleaning that takes place daily, which includes cleaning the showers twice). Hayes Microbial Consulting conducted a mold test on March 17, 2025, finding some common types of molds (none of it “black mold”), which was treated as prescribed. Ceiling tiles and shower curtains were replaced throughout the facility, and broken toilet seat lids were replaced. Additionally, the facility staff conducted a light check and replaced lights throughout the facility as necessary.

Finally, in response to the report referenced under the “Housing” section, it should be noted that it is not true that inmates only have access to pillows on a first-come, first-served basis. Pillows are issued upon request.

OSIG appreciates the assistance provided by the Department of Corrections during this inspection. Please contact me with any questions at 804-625-3255 or michael.westfall@osig.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Westfall, CPA
State Inspector General

cc: The Honorable John Littel, Chief of Staff to Governor Youngkin
Justin Vélez-Hagan, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Youngkin
Kate Stockhausen, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
Jason Miyares, Attorney General of Virginia
Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services
House Committee on Public Safety Corrections Oversight Committee
Chadwick Dotson, Director, Virginia Department of Corrections
Dave Robinson, Chief of Corrections Operations, Virginia Department of Corrections
Holly Cline, Chief of Staff, Virginia Department of Corrections