

Marion Co. Detention Center Seeks ACA Certification

Last year the American Correctional Association (ACA) approved a list of "Core Jail Standards." These standards are critical levels of attainment that must be met in order for a jail to be "certified" by the ACA.

On March 19, 2010, the Marion County Detention Center (MCDC) signed a contract with ACA notifying them of their intent to abide by these standards and thus become the first jail in Kentucky to be "ACA Certified."

Marion County Jailer

Barry Brady said there are a total of 77 full-service jails in Kentucky, and while a few of them have shown an interest in the certification process, MCDC is the only one currently under contract with the ACA to pursue certification.

The complete certification process takes one year to complete. The jail staff must show that they meet or exceed the standards throughout the entire year. At the end of the year, the ACA conducts an audit to verify that all the Core Jail Standards have been met.

"There are three things you don't ever compromise: staff, staff training and life safety issues."

Barry Brady

Marion County Jailer



Brady said that since they signed the contract in March, he is hoping to have the audit scheduled and completed in early 2011.

Achieving certification shows that the jailer and his staff are working toward

one common goal.

"We strive to do the right thing so we can reduce our liability issues without sacrificing the needs of the inmates or the professionalism of our staff," said Brady.



Left: The new Marion County Detention Center, located in Lebanon, Ky., was dedicated in December 2009. Marion County Jailer Barry Brady is the first Kentucky Jailer to seek ACA Certification.

Marion Co. Passes ACA Audit; Becomes First-Ever Certified Jail

Last year the Marion County Detention Center (MCDC) signed a contract with the American Correctional Association (ACA) notifying them of their intent to seek certification by abiding by the ACA's list of "Core Jail Standards."

On March 9th and 10th, following a oneyear process, MCDC completed and passed their ACA audit.

Jailer Barry Brady said there are a total of 77 full-service jails in Kentucky, and while a few of them have shown an interest in the certification process, MCDC will be the first and only detention center in Kentucky to receive ACA certification.

Achieving certification shows that the jailer and his staff are working toward one common goal.

"We strive to do the right thing so we can reduce our liability issues without sacrificing the needs of the inmates or the professionalism of our staff," said Brady. "There are three things you don't ever compromise: staff, staff training and life safety issues."

The detention center received an audit score of 100% on mandatory standards and 94.3% on non-



The ACA audit of Marion County Detention Center, was conducted on March 9-10 by Rodney Bivens, Director of Corrections/Personnel for the Knox County Detention Facility in Knoxville and Daedra Carrio, Training Administration Coordinator for the Montgomery County Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation in Rockville, Maryland. Above Jailer Barry Brady congratulates his staff on the successful audit. Marion County Detention Center is now the first certified jail in Kentucky.

mandatory standards.

Brady said the non-mandatory items the jail failed to meet during the audit process are physical plant issues that are correctable, and are in fact already in the process of being corrected.

"The quality of life here at the facility, the medical services, and all the different aspects of the facility is exceptional," said Auditor Chairperson Rodney Bivens.

"The sanitation is exceptional. It's very rare going into a facility and hearing inmates telling

you that the one thing they like best about the facility is that it's clean. As an auditor, that says a whole lot about the staff and the facility. It's hard to point out everybody, but you can see the team effort and the 'hand-shake' everywhere you go."

MCDC will appear at a Commission Hearing on April 30, 2011.

Following this hearing, they will receive their actual certification at an ACA luncheon to be held at the CAMA Conference in Miami, Florida on May 1st.

AROUND

The State

Award Nominees Sought by ACA

The American Correctional Association is currently seeking nominations for several awards.

The nominations will be considered by the ACA's Correctional Awards Committee during our 141st Congress of Correction in Kissimmee, Florida, August 5-10, 2011, and will be presented to the successful candidates in January 2012.

The nomination forms are printed in the February/March issue of Corrections Today magazine. Here is a link to the ACA website also where forms are available: <http://www.aca.org/pastpresentfuture/awards.asp>

ACA asks that all nominations adhere to the entry rules as outlined on the forms.

The categories are:

- Community Service Award
- E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award
- Innovations in Corrections Award
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Award
- Medal of Valor Award
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Journalism Award
- Peter P. Lejins Research Award

Nominations must be received in the ACA office by June 1, 2011.