

# The Paducah Sun

## Jail review calls for more paperwork

Written by Administrator Friday, August 20 2004

**The McCracken inspection resulted in some suggestions for improving the jail's procedures**

The last of three U.S. Department of Justice officials inspecting the McCracken County Regional Jail finished Friday and offered similar suggestions to county officials as the other inspectors made this week, County Administrator Steve Doolittle said.

"Mr. (Eugene) Miller's comments generally went to the need for additional documentation at the jail," Doolittle said after the exit interview with Miller, a correctional operations specialist.

The two other inspectors were Dr. Joseph Fowlkes, a medicine specialist, and Jim Balsamo, a facilities specialist. Balsamo reviewed the physical condition of the jail, including the kitchen, where he noted some improvement and cleanup was needed, Doolittle said. Doolittle added that "a number of things he thought were lacking on his last visit ... were cleaned up and corrected" for this visit.

The investigations go back to January 2000, when the county signed a 30-page agreement with the Justice Department to comply with specified conditions. Almost half of the paperwork related to

physical and mental health of jail inmates.

This time, Fowlkes thoroughly reviewed the medical service area. Doolittle said Fowlkes was particularly impressed with a recently installed

**"Fowlkes said the system (CorrecTek) is limitless in the way we can use it to improve our medical service delivery,"**

**- Steve Doolittle, McCracken County Administrator on Dr. Joseph Fowlkes', U.S. Department of Justice, response to seeing CorrecTek.**

computerized inmate records system, which is more advanced than most jails' systems throughout the country and eliminates the need for mountains of paperwork. It was installed by Paducah's Ulrich Medical Concepts as part of a deal that includes using the county jail to showcase the technology to other jails that might be interested in buying it.

Doolittle said. Fowlkes also noted that the system just needs to

be updated, which a deputy has been doing almost full time for a month.

None of the inspectors or Justice Department attorney Andrew Barrick -- who supervised the weeklong visit -- would comment about their findings.

Doolittle said Miller and Balsamo both were good at offering feedback about how to improve the jail. Judge-Executive Danny Orazine said most comments received were about how services and records were conducted and kept.

Justice department inspectors have been looking at the county's jail operations for six years. The initial report was issued in October 1999 and criticized the way the jail punished and fed inmates. Overcrowding and medical-attention concerns were also expressed.

"We want to get in compliance so everybody is happy," Orazine said, "no matter what happens."



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