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Department of Public Health  
Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health  
Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards  
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March 10, 2025

Kevin F. Copping, Sheriff  
Essex County Sheriff's Department Headquarters  
20 Manning Avenue  
Middleton, MA 01929 (electronic copy)

Re: Facility Inspection – Essex County Correctional Alternative Center, Lawrence

Dear Sheriff Copping:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) conducted an inspection of the Essex County Correctional Alternative Center on February 25, 2025 accompanied by Sean Gallagher, Director of Operations and Captain Jim Comeau, in accordance with Department regulations 105 CMR 451.000: Minimum Health and Sanitation Standards and Inspection Procedures for Correctional Facilities.

The inspection identified 74 total deficiencies: 35 deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series), 16 repeat deficiencies under the Required Standards, 12 deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series), 7 repeat deficiencies under the Recommended Standards, and 4 deficiencies under 105 CMR 451.402(B) (other conditions that may constitute a threat to health or safety).

## Overview

**Section 1** provides details of all deficiencies, including repeat deficiencies, found during the inspection. These are categorized by Required Standards, Recommended Standards, or additional applicable regulatory standards.

**Section 2** provides information on areas that EHRS found to be compliant.

**Section 3** documents the areas that EHRS did not inspect.

**Section 4** provides information on submitting a Plan of Correction for the identified deficiencies.

**Section 5** outlines observations and recommendations related to the inspection.

## **SECTION 1: Health and Safety Deficiencies**

### **Main Building**

#### **Deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series)**

33 new deficiencies and 15 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

1. Control	Bathroom (near Shift Commander's Office)	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Radiator rusted
2. Control	Shift Commander's Office	105 CMR 451.200	Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food preparation not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, interior of microwave oven dirty
3. Lobby	Staff Break Room	105 CMR 451.200	Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food preparation not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, interior of microwave oven dirty
4. South Side 1st Floor	Female Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water stained
5. South Side 1st Floor	Female Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.126	Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: Hot water temperature 61°F at handwash sink
6. South Side 1st Floor	Male Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Radiator rusted
7. South Side 2nd Floor	Room # S202	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen damaged at both windows
8. South Side 2nd Floor	Room # S206	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen damaged at one window
9. South Side 2nd Floor	Room # S206	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen missing at one window
10. South Side 2nd Floor	Room # S207	105 CMR 451.102	Pillows and Linens: Pillow damaged on bed # 1
11. South Side 2nd Floor	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.126	Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: Hot water temperature 95°F at handwash sink
12. South Side 2nd Floor	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Strong urine odor present
13. South Side 2nd Floor	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Light shield(s) missing
14. South Side 3rd Floor	Inmate Bathroom	105 CMR 451.126	Hot Water for Bathing and Hygiene: Hot water temperature 100°F at handwash sink
15. North Side 1st Floor	Dining Room	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, sink leaking
16. North Side 1st Floor	Dining Room	105 CMR 451.200	Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food preparation not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, interior of microwave oven dirty
17. North Side 1st Floor	Tray Room	105 CMR 451.200	Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, sprayer head moldy at sink. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A).
18. Kitchen	Refrigerators	105 CMR 451.200*	Maintenance and Operation, Equipment: Equipment components not maintained in a state of good repair,

			mold on gaskets in refrigerator # 3. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 4-501.11(B).
19. Kitchen	Dry Storage Closet	105 CMR 451.200	Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not in good repair, wall fan dusty. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.11.
20. Kitchen	Main Area	105 CMR 451.200*	Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not in good repair, ceiling leaking in freezer. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.11.
21. Kitchen	Main Area	105 CMR 451.200*	Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, excessive ice build-up on floor in freezer. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A).
22. Kitchen	2-Compartment Sink (Left)	105 CMR 451.200	Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, wall fan dusty and doesn't open completely. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A).
23. Kitchen	2-Compartment Sink (Right)	105 CMR 451.200	Maintenance and Operation; Premises, Structure, Attachments, and Fixtures - Methods: Facility not cleaned as often as necessary, water sprayer moldy at sink. Standard found in 105 CMR 590; FC 6-501.12(A).
24. North Side 2nd Floor	Inmate Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty throughout
25. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N202	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen damaged
26. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N203	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen missing
27. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N204	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen damaged
28. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N209	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen missing
29. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N210 (Left)	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen missing
30. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N210 (Right)	105 CMR 451.141*	Screens: Screen missing
31. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N210 (Right)	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen damaged
32. North Side 3rd Floor	Room # N301	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress damaged
33. North Side 3rd Floor	Room # N307	105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress damaged on bed # 2
34. Maintenance Cage	Maintenance Storage	105 CMR 451.141	Screens: Screen missing
35. Main Bathroom	Toilets and Handwash Sinks	105 CMR 451.130	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, sink # 9 loose
36. Main Bathroom	Toilets and Handwash Sinks	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Wall missing under sink
37. Main Bathroom	Main Shower	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Walls dirty in shower # 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10
38. Main Bathroom	Main Shower	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Walls dirty in shower # 1
39. Main Bathroom	Main Shower	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling dirty throughout

40. Main Bathroom	Main Shower	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling vent rusted
41. Main Bathroom	Slop Sink	105 CMR 451.130*	Plumbing: Plumbing not maintained in good repair, not hot water supplied to slop sink
42. Print Shop (off of Gym)	Toilets and Handwash Sinks	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Ceiling vent dusty
43. Officer's Weight Room	Male Staff Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Baseboard damaged near showers

#### **Deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series)**

11 new deficiencies and 7 repeat deficiencies (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

1. South Side 2nd Floor	Room # S209	105 CMR 451.350	Structural Maintenance: Wall damaged
2. South Side 2nd Floor	Room # S211	105 CMR 451.350*	Structural Maintenance: Ceiling damaged
3. South Side 3rd Floor	Room # S303	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Floor tile damaged
4. South Side 3rd Floor	Room # S304	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Missing outlet cover by door
5. North Side 1st Floor	Male Visitor's Bathroom	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wall vent dusty
6. North Side 1st Floor	Female Visitor's Bathroom	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wall vent dusty
7. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N203	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Hole in ceiling tile
8. North Side 2nd Floor	Room # N205	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Hole in ceiling tile
9. North Side 2nd Floor	Barber Shop	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: No barbicide available for sanitizing equipment
10. North Side 2nd Floor	Barber Shop	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Floor tile missing
11. North Side 3rd Floor	Room # N301	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling paint peeling
12. North Side 3rd Floor	Room # N302	105 CMR 451.350*	Structural Maintenance: Window damaged
13. North Side 3rd Floor	Room # N303	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Missing floor under the window
14. Maintenance Cage	Maintenance Storage	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wet mop stored in bucket
15. Print Shop (off of Gym)	Office	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water stained
16. Officer's Weight Room	Hallway (outside)	105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged
17. Gym		105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling damaged
18. Janitorial Closet		105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles missing

#### **Deficiencies under 105 CMR 451.402(B) (other conditions that may constitute a threat to health or safety)**

4 new deficiencies were found during the inspection:

1. Nurse's Office	105 CMR 451.402(B)	Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written procedures for maintaining compliance with 480.000. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A).
2. Nurse's Office	105 CMR 451.402(B)	Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator lacked written procedures for safe handling within the facility. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A)(2).

3.	Nurse's Office	105 CMR 451.402(B)	Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written documentation for blood borne pathogen training. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A)(3).
4.	Nurse's Office	105 CMR 451.402(B)	Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written documentation of emergency contact information. Standard found in 105 CMR 480.500(A)(4).

## Annex

### Deficiencies under the Required Standards (.100 and .200 series)

2 new deficiencies and 1 repeat deficiency (indicated by an \*) were found during the inspection:

1.	First Floor	Bathroom	105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Ceiling fan dusty
2.	Basement	Inmate Bathroom	105 CMR 451.110(A)	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No soap at handwash sink
3.	Basement	Inmate Bathroom	105 CMR 451.110(A)	Hygiene Supplies at Toilet and Handwash Sink: No paper towels at handwash sink

### Deficiencies under the Recommended Standards (.300 series)

1 new deficiency was found during the inspection:

1.	Basement	C-Tech Classroom	105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wall paint peeling
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## SECTION 2: Areas Found to be in Compliance

EHRS inspected 108 additional areas of the facility which were found to be in compliance.

## Section 3: Areas EHRS did not inspect

EHRS did not inspect 6 areas of the facility because they were locked, in use, or under construction:

1.	Main Building	South Side 1st Floor	Parole Office	Unable to Inspect – Locked
2.	Main Building	Second Floor Lobby	Assistant Superintendent's Office	Unable to Inspect – In Use
3.	Main Building	Second Floor Lobby	Superintendent's Office	Unable to Inspect – In Use
4.	Main Building	South Side 3rd Floor	Investigator's Office	Unable to Inspect – Locked
5.	Main Building	North Side 2nd Floor	Counselor's Office	Unable to Inspect – Locked
6.	Main Building	Hallway	Offices	Unable to Inspect – Locked

## SECTION 4: Plan of Correction

This facility does not comply with the Department's regulations cited above. In accordance with 105 CMR 451.404, please submit a plan of correction within 10 working days of receipt of this notice which includes:

1. Specific corrective steps to be taken
2. A timetable for the corrective actions for larger projects
3. The date by which correction will be achieved
4. Any interim measures being implemented to ensure the health and safety of incarcerated individuals and facility staff
5. The plan should be signed by the Superintendent or Administrator and submitted to my attention, at the address listed above.

## **SECTION 5: Observations and Recommendations**

1. The inmate population was 99 at the time of inspection.
2. The barber shop did not have any barbicide available to sanitize the equipment during the inspection. The EHRS recommends implementing a policy to ensure that equipment is cleaned and sanitized in between each use and barbicide is available at all times for use.
3. The facility was unable to produce written procedures that were site specific as it relates to assuring compliance with 105 CMR 480.000.

To review the specific regulatory requirements please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/dph/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/dph/dcs) and click on "Correctional Facilities" [105 CMR 451.000](#) is available in both PDF and RTF formats. For more specific information about the food standards, you can download the merged food code, which can be found [here](#).

An inspection may also include observations of other conditions which could constitute a threat to the health or safety of inmates or employees, including but not limited to the standards set forth by the Department as follows, and report on such pursuant to 451.402(B). You can use these links below to review these standards:

- [105 CMR 205.000](#): Minimum Standards Governing Medical Records and Conduct of Physical Examinations in Correctional Facilities
- [105 CMR 480.000](#): Minimum requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste
- [105 CMR 500.000](#): Good Manufacturing Practices for Food

This inspection report is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Riordan'.

Amy Riordan, MPH  
Senior Advisor, EHRS, BCEH