



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
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October 21, 2016

Frank G. Cousins, Jr., Sheriff  
Essex County Sheriff's Department Headquarters  
20 Manning Avenue  
Middleton, MA 01929

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

Dear Sheriff Cousins:

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 5, 20, and 21, as well as Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) Regulations 105 CMR 451.000: Minimum Health and Sanitation Standards and Inspection Procedures for Correctional Facilities; 105 CMR 480.000: Storage and Disposal of Infectious or Physically Dangerous Medical or Biological Waste (State Sanitary Code, Chapter VIII); 105 CMR 590.000: Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments (State Sanitary Code Chapter X); the 1999 Food Code; 105 CMR 520.000 Labeling; and 105 CMR 205.000 Minimum Standards Governing Medical Records and the Conduct of Physical Examinations in Correctional Facilities; I conducted an inspection of the Essex County Correctional Alternative Center on October 13, 2016 accompanied by Lieutenant Rand Nicholas. Violations noted during the inspection are listed below including 41 repeat violations:

**HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS**

(\* indicates conditions documented on previous inspection reports)

**Main Building**

*Lobby*

No Violations Noted

*Control Room*

No Violations Noted

**Nurse's Office**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 105 CMR 480.425(A)*    | Tracking Medical or Biological Waste for Treatment: Generator did not confirm the shipment was received by the treatment facility within 30 days on an approved tracking form |
| 105 CMR 480.425(B)*    | Tracking Medical or Biological Waste for Treatment: Generator did not report to the Department that a completed medical waste tracking form was not received within 30 days   |
| 105 CMR 480.500(A)*    | Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written procedures for maintaining compliance with 480.000  |
| 105 CMR 480.500(A)(3)* | Procedures; Records; Record-Keeping Log: Generator had no written documentation for blood borne pathogen training   |

*Storage Closet*

105 CMR 480.100(B)  
105 CMR 480.100(C)(1)

Storage Area: Storage area not used exclusively for waste storage  
Storage Area: Storage area did not have prominent signage

*Nurse's Bathroom*

No Violations Noted

*Shift Commander's Office*

105 CMR 451.200

Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with  
105 CMR 590.000, excessive ice buildup in freezer

*Parole Office*

No Violations Noted

*Parole Office Bathroom*

No Violations Noted

*Hallway*

No Violations Noted

*Staff Break Room*

No Violations Noted

*Storage Room*

No Violations Noted

**Second Floor Lobby**

*Superintendent's Office*

Unable to Inspect - Locked

*Deputy Superintendent's Office*

Unable to Inspect - Locked

*Assistant Deputy Superintendent's Office*

Unable to Inspect - Locked

*Male Staff Bathroom*

Unable to Inspect - Locked

*Female Staff Bathroom*

Unable to Inspect - Locked

**South Side 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

*Attorney Room*

No Violations Noted

*Work Release Waiting Area*

No Violations Noted

*Work Release Office*

No Violations Noted

*Records Office*

No Violations Noted

*Female Staff Bathroom*

Unable to Inspect - Locked

*Male Staff Bathroom*

105 CMR 451.123\*

Maintenance: Ceiling water damaged

105 CMR 451.123\*

Maintenance: Floor tiles cracked

*Offices*

No Violations Noted

**Intake Area**

*Urine Lab*

No Violations Noted

*Shake Down Rooms*

No Violations Noted

**South Side 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*Hallway*

No Violations Noted

*Storage Room*

No Violations Noted

*Bathroom*

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Handwash sinks dirty

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Ceiling dirty throughout bathroom

*Room # S201*

105 CMR 451.103

Mattresses: Mattress damaged

*Room # S202*

No Violations Noted

*Room # S203*

105 CMR 451.353\*

Interior Maintenance: Light shield damaged

*Room # S204*

No Violations Noted

*Room # S205*

No Violations Noted

*Room # S206*

No Violations Noted

*Room # S207*

No Violations Noted

*Room # S208*

No Violations Noted

*Room # S209*

105 CMR 451.353

Interior Maintenance: Light shield damaged

<i>Room # S210</i> 105 CMR 451.344*	Illumination in Habitable Areas: Light not functioning properly, light out
<i>Room # S211</i>	No Violations Noted
<b>South Side 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</b>	
<i>Hallway</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Staff Bathroom</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Storage Closet</i>	Unable to Inspect - Locked
<i>Lieutenant's Office</i>	Unable to Inspect – Locked
<i>Investigator's Office</i> 105 CMR 451.200	Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, no functional thermometer in refrigerator
<i>Property Room</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Hallway</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # S301</i> 105 CMR 451.141* 105 CMR 451.353	Screens: Screen missing Interior Maintenance: Light shield damaged
<i>Room # S302</i> 105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress damaged
<i>Room # S303</i> 105 CMR 451.141*	Screens: Screen missing
<i>Room # S304</i> 105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress damaged
<i>Room # S305</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Inmate Bathroom</i>	Did Not Inspect – No Longer In Use
<b>North Side 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>	
<i>Dining Room</i> FC 4-601.11(C)* FC 6-501.11	Cleaning of Equipment and Utensils, Objective: Vending machine drawers dirty Maintenance and Operation; Repairing: Facility not in good repair, window sill paint damage on windows near vending machines

*Ice Machine*

FC 4-602.11(E)(4)(b)

Cleaning of Equipment and Utensils, Frequency: Mold growth observed on interior surfaces of ice machine

*Dish Room*

FC 4-501.116

Maintenance and Operation; Equipment: Unable to test concentration of sanitizing solution in warewash machine

105 CMR 590.003(B)(13)

Demonstration: Unable to demonstrate procedures necessary to ensure sanitizing solution is safely dispensed of and used in warewash machine

FC 5-205.15(B)

Plumbing System, Operations and Maintenance: Plumbing system not maintained in good repair, cold water at handwash sink continually running

FC 6-501.111(B)

Maintenance and Operations; Pest Control: Flies observed around warewash machine

FC 6-501.12(A)

Maintenance and Operation; Cleaning: Facility not cleaned properly, mold observed on wall behind warewash machine

*Visitor's Bathroom*

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Floor tiles damaged

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Ceiling paint peeling

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Walls dirty throughout bathroom

*Female Bathroom*

No Violations Noted

**Kitchen**

**Back Serving Area**

*2-Door Refrigerator*

FC 4-501.11(B)

Maintenance and Operation, Equipment: Equipment components not maintained in a state of good repair, mold observed on gaskets

*Serving/Prep Tables*

FC 6-501.11\*

Maintenance and Operation; Repairing: Facility not in good repair, hole in wall

*Dry Storage Closet*

No Violations Noted

*Freezer (F2)*

No Violations Noted

*Walk-in Refrigerator and Freezer (same unit)*

FC 4-501.11(A)\*

Maintenance and Operation, Equipment: Equipment not maintained in a state of good repair, ice build-up on floor

**Main Kitchen Area**

*Office*

No Violations Noted

*Prep Tables*

FC 6-501.11

Maintenance and Operation; Repairing: Facility not in good repair, wall damaged near slicer

FC 6-501.12(A)

Maintenance and Operation; Cleaning: Facility not cleaned properly, mouse droppings observed on top of radiator cover behind prep tables

<i>Loading Dock</i> FC 6-202.15(A)(3)	Design, Construction, and Installation; Functionality: Outer door not weather and vermin tight, outer door left open
<i>2-Bay Sink (Left)</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>2-Bay Sink (Center)</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>2-Bay Sink (Right)</i> FC 6-501.11	Maintenance and Operation; Repairing: Facility not in good repair, floor tiles damaged
<i>Handwash Sink</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Steamer</i> FC 6-501.11	Maintenance and Operation; Repairing: Facility not in good repair, floor tiles damaged around steamer
<i>Ovens and Hoods</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Kettles</i> FC 6-501.11	Maintenance and Operation; Repairing: Facility not in good repair, floor tiles damaged around kettles
<i>Slop Sink</i> FC 6-501.11	Maintenance and Operation; Repairing: Facility not in good repair, wall tiles around slop sink damaged
<i>Ice Machine</i>	No Violations Noted
<b>North Side 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	
<i>Counselor's Office</i> 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Light shield damaged
<i>Inmate Bathroom</i> 105 CMR 451.123*	Maintenance: Floor not easily cleanable, floor left unfinished
<i>Hallway</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Storage Room</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Barber Shop</i> 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Unlabeled chemical bottle
<i>Room # N201</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N202</i> 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Hole in ceiling

<i>Room # N203</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N204</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N205</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N206</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N207</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N209</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N210</i> 105 CMR 451.353* 105 CMR 451.344	Interior Maintenance: Two light shields missing Illumination in Habitable Areas: Light not functioning properly, light out
<b>North Side 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</b>	
<i>Hallway</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N301</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Room # N302</i> 105 CMR 451.103	Mattresses: Mattress damaged
<i>Room # N303</i> 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Window sill paint damaged
<i>Room # N304</i> 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Window sill paint damaged
<i>Room # N305</i> 105 CMR 451.353 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Window sill paint damaged Interior Maintenance: Wall damaged near window
<i>Room # N306</i> 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Window sill paint damaged
<i>Bathroom</i> 105 CMR 451.141* 105 CMR 451.123* 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123	Screens: Screen missing Maintenance: Unfinished wood not easily cleanable Maintenance: Floor tiles missing near handwash sinks Maintenance: Handwash sink # 3 out-of-order Maintenance: Baseboard missing in toilet stall # 1 Maintenance: Toilet dirty in stall # 1
<i>Room # N307</i> 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Wall paint damaged

<i>Room # N308</i> 105 CMR 451.353*	Interior Maintenance: Light shield damaged
<i>Closet</i>	No Violation Noted
<b>Basement</b>	
<i>Laundry</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Tunnel near Laundry</i> 105 CMR 451.331* 105 CMR 451.353	Radiators and Heating Pipes: Pipes not properly insulated, insulation damaged Interior Maintenance: Ceiling paint peeling
<i>Maintenance Area</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Sprinkler Room</i>	No Violations Noted
<b>Maintenance Cage</b> 105 CMR 451.353 105 CMR 451.353 105 CMR 451.353	Interior Maintenance: Unlabeled chemical bottle Interior Maintenance: Wet mops stored in bucket Interior Maintenance: Standing water observed in mop bucket
<i>Maintenance Office</i> 105 CMR 451.200	Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, no functional thermometer in refrigerator
<i>Maintenance Bathroom</i> 105 CMR 451.123	Maintenance: Light shield missing
<i>Sewing Room</i>	No Violations Noted
<i>Chemical Room</i>	No Violations Noted
<b>Main Bathroom</b>	
<i>Toilets and Handwash Sinks</i>	Unable to Inspect – In Use
<i>Main Shower</i> 105 CMR 451.121(A)* 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.123 105 CMR 451.120	Privacy: No privacy partition between showers Maintenance: Wall tile grout missing Maintenance: Wall tiles missing Maintenance: Wall tiles damaged Maintenance: Rust colored water seeping through gaps in wall tiles Maintenance: Black substance observed on baseboard throughout shower Maintenance: Soap scum on floor in shower Maintenance: Debris observed on floor in shower Maintenance: Five showers not working Bathing Facilities in Pre-release Facilities: Inadequate number of showers per inmate population in pre-release facility



*Slop Sink*

105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Hole in wall  
Maintenance: Mold observed on wood framing behind slop sink  
Maintenance: Pooling water observed in wood framing behind slop sink

**Re-entry Office**

105 CMR 451.200  
  
105 CMR 451.200

Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, excessive ice buildup in freezer  
Food Storage, Preparation and Service: Food storage not in compliance with 105 CMR 590.000, plastic shelf on refrigerator door damaged

*Re-entry Dorm Room*

105 CMR 451.322\*

Cell Size: Inadequate floor space in dorm room

*Microwave Closet*

No Violations Noted

*Re-entry Bathroom*

Unable to Inspect – In Use

*Re-entry Shower Room*

105 CMR 451.121(A)\*  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123

Privacy: No privacy partition between showers  
Maintenance: Wall tile grout missing  
Maintenance: Black substance observed between wall tiles  
Maintenance: Wall tiles missing  
Maintenance: Wall tiles damaged  
Maintenance: Black substance observed on baseboard throughout shower  
Maintenance: Debris observed on shower floor  
Maintenance: Soap scum observed on shower floor  
Maintenance: Shower # 3 continually running  
Maintenance: Two showers not working

**Officer's Weight Room**

105 CMR 451.350\*  
105 CMR 451.353\*  
105 CMR 451.353\*

Structural Maintenance: Ceiling open and water damaged  
Interior Maintenance: Standing water on floor  
Interior Maintenance: Weight bench pads damaged on multiple pieces of equipment

*Female Staff Locker Room*

No Violations Noted

*Male Staff Locker Room*

No Violations Noted

*Gym*

105 CMR 451.344\*  
105 CMR 451.353\*  
105 CMR 451.353  
105 CMR 451.353\*  
105 CMR 451.350\*  
105 CMR 451.353\*

Illumination in Habitable Areas: Inadequate lighting, several lights out  
Interior Maintenance: Several light shields missing  
Interior Maintenance: Light shields not secured to light fixture  
Interior Maintenance: Floor surface damaged  
Structural Maintenance: Exterior doors not rodent and weathertight  
Interior Maintenance: Debris behind vending machines

*Bathroom # 105*

No Violations Noted

*Female Bathroom # 106*

No Violations Noted

*Car Wash Garage*  
105 CMR 451.350\*  
105 CMR 451.353

Structural Maintenance: Exterior door not rodent and weathertight  
Interior Maintenance: Unlabeled chemical bottle

**Back Building**

*Classroom*

No Violations Noted

*Office Area*

No Violations Noted

*Hallway*

105 CMR 451.353  
105 CMR 451.353

Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles water damaged outside of bathroom  
Interior Maintenance: Light shield damaged

*Bathroom*

105 CMR 451.121(A)\*  
105 CMR 451.123  
105 CMR 451.123

Privacy: No privacy partition between showers  
Maintenance: Mop stored in bucket in shower area  
Maintenance: Light shield damaged

*Dorm # 1*

No Violations Noted

*Dorm # 2*

105 CMR 451.141

Screens: Screen damaged

*Dorm # 3*

No Violations Noted

*Dorm # 4*

105 CMR 451.353\*

Interior Maintenance: Ceiling tiles not maintained in a state of good repair, ceiling tile damaged

105 CMR 451.353\*

Interior Maintenance: Ceiling vent not secured to ceiling

*Dorm # 5*

No Violations Noted

*Dorm # 6*

No Violations Noted

*TV and Common Area*

105 CMR 451.350

Structural Maintenance: Exterior door not rodent and weathertight

**Annex Building**

**First Floor**

*Dorm # 1*

105 CMR 451.103\*  
105 CMR 451.353

Mattresses: Several mattresses damaged  
Interior Maintenance: Window sill paint damaged

*Dorm # 2*

105 CMR 451.103\*  
105 CMR 451.353  
105 CMR 451.353

Mattresses: Several mattresses damaged  
Interior Maintenance: Ceiling water damaged around ventilation grille  
Interior Maintenance: Wall paint damaged

*Visiting Room*

105 CMR 451.353

Interior Maintenance: Holes in floor near bathroom

*Visitor's Bathroom*

No Violations Noted

**Second Floor**

*Dorm # 3*

105 CMR 451.353

Interior Maintenance: Window sill paint damaged

*Dorm # 4*

105 CMR 451.344

Illumination in Habitable Areas: Lights not functioning properly, lights out

*Office*

Unable to Inspect - Locked

**Basement**

*Counselor's Offices*

No Violations Noted

*Female Staff Bathroom*

No Violations Noted

*Inmate Bathroom*

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Debris on floor

105 CMR 451.123\*

Maintenance: Standing water on floor

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Handwash sink counter tops and sink basins dirty

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Handwash sink # 1 out-of-order

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Floor drain clogged in front of urinals

*Slop Sink*

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Mold observed on slop sink basin

*Inmate Shower Room*

105 CMR 451.121(A)

Privacy: No privacy partition between showers

105 CMR 451.123\*

Maintenance: Soap scum on wall

105 CMR 451.123\*

Maintenance: Soap scum on floor

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Mold observed on tile grout

105 CMR 451.123

Maintenance: Wall tiles damaged at entrance to shower

*GED Room*

No Violations Noted

**Observations and Recommendations**

1. The inmate population was 284 at the time of inspection.
2. During the inspection of the main showers and re-entry showers it was stated that the wall tile grout had deteriorated causing water from the showers to leak into the wood framing behind the shower walls in both areas. It was also stated that the water pools at the bottom of the wood frames or water seeps back into the shower through the missing tile grout. The Department is concerned with the exposure of the wood framing to chronic dampness behind the main shower and re-entry shower walls.
3. During the inspection of the kitchen, the Department was unable to test the concentration of the sanitizing solution within the warewash machine. The Department recommended contacting the warewash machine

manufacturer to determine the most effective way to test this concentration to ensure appropriate levels of sanitizing solution are being used.

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, indicating the specific corrective steps to be taken, a timetable for such steps, and the date by which correction will be achieved. The plan should be signed by the Superintendent or Administrator and submitted to my attention, at the address listed above.

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" (available in both PDF and RTF formats).

To review the Food Establishment regulations please visit the Food Protection website at [www.mass.gov/dph/fpp](http://www.mass.gov/dph/fpp) and click on "Food Protection Regulations". Then under "Retail" click "105 CMR 590.000 - State Sanitary Code Chapter X – Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments" and "1999 Food Code".

To review the Labeling regulations please visit the Food Protection website at [www.mass.gov/dph/fpp](http://www.mass.gov/dph/fpp) and click on "Food Protection Regulations". Then under "General Food Regulations" click "105 CMR 520.000: Labeling."

This inspection report is signed and certified under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Sincerely,



Kerry Wagner  
Environmental Health Inspector, CSP, BEH

cc: Jan Sullivan, Acting Director, BEH  
Steven Hughes, Director, CSP, BEH  
Timothy Miley, Director of Government Affairs  
Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Thomas Turco, Commissioner, DOC  
Aaron Eastman, Superintendent  
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