JHA Special Report: Kewanee
The Inaugural IDOC Life Skills Reentry Center Facility Report

Executive Summary
The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) had our first official visit to the Kewanee Life Skills Reentry Center (LSRC) in April 2018, about a year after it opened in mid-February 2017 with the first 10 men housed within Kewanee LSRC (Kewanee) as an Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) facility. Population at Kewanee on the date of the April 2018 visit was 215, nearly double the population of 130 men housed at the facility a few months earlier at the beginning of 2018. The operational, or bed-space, capacity at Kewanee has been reported differently, from 538 to 648. Administrators stated that they expected to soon increase population to 280 when a third housing unit is opened. However, the facility capacity remains undecided, as increasing the population to the reported operational capacity is not yet considered feasible while maintaining program integrity. Kewanee’s population made up just about .5% of the approximately 41,060 people incarcerated within IDOC; nonetheless, the novel work of this facility merits review.

Kewanee had been an Illinois Youth Center run by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) until the closure of that facility in June 2016. JHA had called for the closure of the facility for youth for several years due to chronic issues and the low population throughout IDJJ. However, JHA strongly supported repurposing the facility for adults, in part because it has a much newer and better physical plant than most adult facilities, and to provide specialized services sorely lacking throughout IDOC. Ultimately, with Kewanee, Illinois chose to try something that had been talked about for years and encouraged by many including JHA, to use the facility to provide intensive programming and reentry preparation for those who were at a higher risk to recidivate. As Kewanee administrators explained, they don’t want the best of the best, or people who are already at a low level of risk to reoffend, and who are not coming back anyway, because providing intensive reentry programming for that population will not make as much of a difference.

JHA also notes that providing more humane treatment and productive programming undoubtably will benefit both individuals and society.

Kewanee LSRC Eligibility
Administrators reported that any IDOC inmate housed at a male facility can apply for placement at Kewanee LSRC and will be considered if they meet the eligibility criteria. To be eligible for Kewanee placement, at the time of their application review a person reportedly must be:

1. One to four years from their projected release date,
2. Free of any 100 or 200 level (major) disciplinary tickets in the prior six months,
3. Assessed as moderate to high risk to recidivate based on a pre-screen risk assessment tool, currently the Service Planning Instrument (SPIn).
Kewanee’s Assistant Warden of Programs is the point person for applications and serves on the review committee. The application contains an essay component but administrators stated that this is not heavily weighted and few applications are excluded based on the essay.

Critically, for the selection process, IDOC has partnered with an outside independent research organization, Harvard Government Performance Lab (Harvard),\(^{10}\) which helped to develop a randomized selection process and will evaluate the outcomes for individuals participating in the Kewanee LSRC compared to others not selected. This organization is reportedly aiding Illinois pro bono with this and other projects through the Governor’s Office.

Whenever Kewanee has an open bed they will do a random selection from the applications and approve twice as many applicants as open beds. For example, the facility would randomly select applications until they had approved 24 to fill 12 open beds. From these, 12 men will be randomly selected to come to Kewanee and 12 will not. The subsequent evaluation by Harvard will look at the three-year recidivism rate for both those groups. Hence, the research results will likely not be made available until the 2020s. Administrators reported that from this evaluation they hope to gain more information about what type of person is the “right candidate” for the LSRC model, so that in the future IDOC can better target resources at those most likely to have improved outcomes.

There were reportedly more than 1,000 applications pending with an increasing application rate as people throughout the state learn more about the model. There is reason to believe that the number of men who are eligible within IDOC is many times the number of applicants, which is already many times the number of beds at the facility. Administrators acknowledged that being selected for Kewanee involves a “bit of luck,” but stressed that the men had to have had the “internal motivation to apply.” During the visit, JHA heard both from the men and staff that getting into the program was like “winning the lottery.”

About 60% of the Kewanee population had less than two years to serve;\(^{11}\) however, some of these men will receive sentencing credits shortening their stays. Although Kewanee had only been open about 14 months at the time of the April 2018 visit, administrators reported that about 60 men have paroled from the facility, most of them after a stay of less than a year, due to receipt of sentencing credits.\(^{12}\) They acknowledged that for men who are at Kewanee for shorter stays than intended, proper programming is more difficult.

Administrators reported that they do not solicit feedback from releasees, but several men have contacted them after they have been released to let them know how they are doing and encouraging feedback is shared with others at the facility and helps build morale. During the visit, an administrator was contacted by an individual who had been incarcerated since he was a juvenile, but who was now going to college with housing.

**Philosophy**
Kewanee LSRC staff expressed that the facility has a philosophy that every waking moment is a lesson, where men are prepared to leave and these lessons are reinforced. Administrators reported that the facility tries to “mimic life on the outside as closely as possible within IDOC security restraints,” resembling “a college campus” more than a traditional IDOC facility. They
stressed that they wanted to create an environment that was not authoritarian, where people did not feel they had to look over their shoulders. This involves letting people make more choices and allowing the incarcerated men to have more independence and responsibility. Administrators emphasized that at Kewanee all men are required to do programming and although they give the men access, the men must take advantage of the opportunity themselves.

One aspect of the facility that exemplifies the lesson of personal responsibility is the fact that the incarcerated men have open movement, permitting them to move from one point to another unescorted and without call passes, unlike at other facilities where movement is often run with escorted lines. The men are responsible to get themselves where they are required to be, and one man recounted with excitement how it felt to have his own alarm clock and be responsible for getting himself to class. The men are required to sign in and out of places, and this can be reviewed. They are expected to go to assignments, but can go to yard, gym, dayroom, dining, the art room, library, visitation, and even commissary, generally during daylight hours and free time. This is in contrast to the other Illinois prisons where these things are available only periodically by housing unit. The men may also pick up a phone on the housing unit and make an appointment to see healthcare. Another difference of Kewanee versus other IDOC facilities is that the men do not have to declare a religion. Instead, like on the outside, the men can choose to attend a religious service. If they do not like it, they are expected to be respectful, but they can leave.

The facility embraces a holistic approach to preparing men for release, as one man stated the goal is for people to get out of Friday and have a job interview Monday. To this end the facility reintroduces some societal normalization, in contrast to institutionalization, where possible.

**JHA Surveys**

In relation to our April 2018 visit, JHA received 98 survey responses from the incarcerated men at Kewanee, or 45.6%, nearly half, of the population on the date of the visit. We incorporate survey responses as well as direct feedback from conversations and letters from incarcerated individuals, staff, and other interested parties in our advocacy work. In this report some Kewanee survey responses are compared to the cumulative responses we received at various IDOC facilities throughout 2017, from 7,322 individuals at nine facilities with diverse characteristics. A more comprehensive comparison is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

People have the opportunity to add an additional comment to their survey response, and one man who had been incarcerated throughout IDOC wrote that he had never thought that a prison like this existed and that the only bad thing about the place was that it took all of the prior years of his incarceration to come to be. Other incarcerated men simply described their experience at the facility to JHA as excellent. Another stated feel like a human again Never dreamed I’d be able to. The men attributed their positivity mainly to Respect. As one noted, the level of communication is normal, polite. Another stated compared to other IDOC facilities, here at Kewanee there had been not one hard word or crazy look and that, they treat us like human beings and it is reciprocated. Other places people don’t think about the response to their actions. Another said, things we are used to fighting for i like respect i here they give it to you. Several men said they felt lucky to be at Kewanee and that it was a blessing. Others
expressed that they were motivated to get their lives back on track and felt that Kewanee gave them needed support and transitional help. One man stated he believes this facility “will make even the most negative person want to straighten up.” Some individuals said they now could not imagine being released from other facilities straight into society.

JHA visitors felt that the Kewanee environment was notably more relaxed than at other facilities and received overall very positive feedback from incarcerated men and staff alike. Staff morale at the facility seemed good. Several staff stated that they now looked forward to coming to work, particularly in contrast to when the facility had housed youth, whom some felt had more unmanageable behavior as they did not seem to care about their futures in contrast to the current population. Staff also appreciated that the men would be transferred for any threat or act of violence.

At Kewanee several incarcerated men mentioned particular staff who they trusted, thought were fair, and felt would follow through on what they said they would do and whom really embodied the LSRC mission. They generally felt that staff were supportive, listened, and cared, without being overbearing. Many men also expressed that they felt that other incarcerated men there were supportive, that there was a sense of community, and that interpersonal issues were rare. JHA visitors felt both the incarcerated men and staff were enthusiastic and oriented towards the men’s future success. JHA also heard numerous examples of how staff having a smaller population to work with was helpful, as well as particular staff who appeared to be going above and beyond what would be expected of them at other facilities or what is technically required of their job positions at Kewanee. All of the JHA visitors felt this facility engendered affirmative and enthusiastic attitudes and reports, which is not something we have often seen at other facilities, and the survey results reflected this.

At the time of the April 2018 JHA visit, administrators reported they had only 70 grievances filed and 51 disciplinary tickets issued in over a year, since the facility opened. The facility periodically holds “City Council” meetings where issues can be discussed. Kewanee administrators stated that they use “swift, certain, and fair” progressive discipline if people are not following rules. This starts with a verbal remand and can progress to other discipline, such as commissary restrictions. For example, on the date of the visit, two men were spoken to for skipping their programming without an excuse, or notice to their teacher, because it was nice out. Staff believe it is important for the men to be held accountable and people who are found guilty of a major 100 or 200 level ticket will be removed from Kewanee. Administrators stated that the men see this as a good thing and noted that it helps them relax and focus on programming. They stressed that the men know what is expected of them. Staff also stated that not having so many negative incidents helps with a positive environment. Since the facility opened in February 2017, Kewanee has had 13 uses of restrictive housing/disciplinary segregation, 13 disciplinary transfers, and two voluntary transfers. Administrators stated that men at the facility are generally engaged and want to do well.

**Programming**

At Kewanee programming is core to the facility. At intake individuals’ needs are assessed through interviews and a full risk assessment screening used to determine their planned programming at the facility. All men who come into the facility are given a two-week orientation
with 10 sessions of an hour and a half where they will also be seen by all department heads who explain their areas, while in the men's free time they can acclimate to the facility. Several men said they had culture shock when they came to the facility as things were so different from what they were accustomed to at other facilities. When asked how long it took to acclimate to the different climate at Kewanee some men responded it took about a month. JHA visitors felt the men at this facility had been generally better oriented to rules of the facility than we have seen elsewhere; again, this is likely due to the individual attention available with lower population and better staffing ratios, but also relates to the model of the facility of giving the men the tools needed to be successful. After orientation, everyone participates in three months of six mandatory pre-vocational life skills-based courses, covering the areas of interpersonal skills, communication, keyboarding, computers, financial literacy, and obtaining and maintaining a job.

Education, counselors, and mental health staff all offer groups or classes with a maximum size of 12 participants. Most of Kewanee's classroom spaces are small, limiting enrollment. For larger groups the chapel, library, or gym spaces can at times be utilized. Staff observed that with 12 people they see a lot of variety in the groups with individuals with different needs, different ages, types of offense, lengths and experiences of incarceration, etc. The broad selection criteria results in a diverse population. At the time of the visit in April 2018, administrators reported that the average age of the population is 38, with an age range of 21 to 70+. Kewanee will accept men with all offense types, including murder or sex offenses, who are often considered ineligible for programming or work opportunities throughout IDOC. The facility is also inclusive for men with mental and physical disabilities who are determined to be capable of engaging in the programming, including offering them programming accommodations and work assignments.

Kewanee has four class periods a day, five days a week. On non-school days special lectures are offered. The facility employed nine state teachers, five of whom are certified to teach special education. This ratio of teachers to students is unheard of within IDOC and is a vestige of the facility being staffed to meet mandates required for incarcerated youth. Educational staff reported that they spent months developing an adult education program before conversion.

Teaching staff stated that they had some idea of what the men would need prior to the facility opening, but they learned the men are almost universally in need of interpersonal and communication skill development. Staff stated that in the past, some men have their GED or more, but that did not stop them from recidivating, which they believe was attributable to the men not being able to get along in society.

At intake if an individual is identified as not having a high school diploma or GED, that will be a priority. People are not excluded from courses due to test scores and staff acknowledged that some men would not achieve their GED but they will continue basic academic support. The facility also has men who cannot read or write or with poor math skills and they have special education and informal peer tutoring to help. Staff stressed that for those who can get their GED before going home this is a good opportunity because they will have a lot of support and fewer distractions. JHA spoke with several men who were clearly proud of their educational accomplishment since arriving at the facility.
All men at Kewanee have 90-day contracts for programming. Staff noted that many men who are still ineligible for sentencing credits are dedicated to doing the programming work. The programming contracts require that the participant not refuse programming or activities required or recommended, participate in at least 15 hours weekly on average of organized, monitored activity (work assignment, class, etc.), and receive satisfactory evaluations by supervising staff, who reportedly appreciate having their feedback included in these assessments as it helps with accountability.

After completing the first 90 days of mandatory life skills courses, individuals begin cognitive behavioral groups based on their needs as assessed at Kewanee intake, participating in classes such as Thinking for a Change, substance abuse treatment, and parenting. Staff reported that needs of the population run the full gamut, substance use disorders, mental health issues, family instability, lack of education, lack of employment history, instability with housing, and institutionalization.

Men may also take elective classes, including classes to support getting a GED or increasing basic education skills, practical math, college or vocational offerings, Microsoft classes, and art expression. Everyone at Kewanee wanted more vocational or college class opportunities, and people were working to make this happen. JHA spoke with men who were disappointed in the lack of upper-level educational programming.

At the time of the visit, Lake Land Community College (Lake Land) was offering one vocational program in restaurant management with 15 students enrolled, which began in October 2017. Custodial maintenance is expected to be offered in June 2018, and manufacturing skills was expected to start in the summer. In the fall of 2017, Lake Land offered some academic classes with 27 students enrolled. However, at the time of the April 2018 visit there were no such offerings and Lake Land administrators reported some difficulty with staffing. The facility plans to start a welding class in July, provided by First Institute Training and Management, which will have 8 students. Administrators also stated that they hoped to offer a Microsoft Data Science class and to partner with Black Hawk College for a permanent welding class.

Survey results reflected the more favorable staffing and access to education at this facility, as only 13% of the survey respondents at Kewanee reported they disagreed with the statement that educational programming was adequate, compared to 61% of survey respondents at various IDOC facilities in 2017, while 74% of Kewanee respondents agreed it was adequate, compared to 18% of 2017 IDOC respondents.

While several incarcerated men commented that they appreciated being at a facility without substantial waitlists for classes, some men expressed interest in more "workforce ready" education. They also noted that learning to use technology, such as smart phones and email, seems to be important to their success and there is little opportunity for these skills to be gained. Some individuals at Kewanee expressed interest in transferring to an Adult Transition Center (ATC, or work release center), where they could work in the community at standard wages and earn privileges such as weekend passes home. Administrators acknowledged the utility of regional community reentry models and stated that those who are eligible for such placements would be submitted; however, the majority of the population would not qualify for ATC
placement because of their criminal history including violent offenses.\textsuperscript{38} JHA has long advocated for changing the criteria for placement and using ATCs for higher risk individuals to provide a needed transition from incarceration back to the community. Additionally, correctional systems should make efforts to fill beds where people have the most access to reentry resources and programming, to maximize both the investment of resources to promote successful reintegration reducing recidivism and optimize the potential for people to earn time off their sentences.

**Community Engagement**

In general, Kewanee appears to have very good community engagement and support. The Chaplain at Kewanee, as at other IDOC facilities, coordinates volunteer services and was honored as employee of the year for his efforts. Kewanee reportedly has nearly 50 regular volunteers, which as a ratio to the population is significant, and equal to the number of volunteers at some facilities many times the size of this facility.\textsuperscript{39} Volunteers are not used exclusively for religious services, and it was noted that a credit counseling class was particularly popular. Men at the facility also work on community projects. Some were decorating collection boxes for discarding used flags properly for a veterans' group. At the time of the visit, 11 men at the facility had outside grounds clearance, meaning that they can also be supervised outside of the facility and work in the community on projects, such as helping with city clean-up efforts.

JHA appreciated the emphasis that this facility appeared to place on family engagement and parenting. Administrators stated that many men realize that they have hurt their kids and part of their successful reintegration involves addressing family reunification. One man told JHA that he had recently learned that kids who have an incarcerated parent are more likely to be incarcerated themselves and stated that was a good reason to "straighten out." Staff will help men with various issues relating to parental rights and administrators reported that some men have commented that they have managed to get things done with other state agencies, where at other facilities nothing had happened. Administrators stressed that they know they are far better staffed and resourced than other facilities, which helps them address issues for the population.

Individuals expressed that they felt at Kewanee that they had more support on the outside, as well as inside, because they had more access to family and friends based on the facility's policies.

In addition to having more generous phone\textsuperscript{40} and visitation policies,\textsuperscript{41} which help foster more family connectedness than at other IDOC facilities, last year Kewanee hosted a "Day with Dad" event, with 19 men and 27 children participants.\textsuperscript{42} The children were brought to Kewanee for a full day of interaction with their incarcerated fathers to rebuild relationships. Community volunteers and support were critical to the success of this event. A second "Day with Dad" is planned and the facility is preparing. However, at the time of the visit, staff reported there were now 142 dads with 355 children at the facility. Not all the men will meet the requirements of having been at the facility the required 90 days without tickets, or for the children being between four and 18 years old. However, staff stated they were willing to expand the event, and they were not about excluding people.

**Healthcare**

At the time of JHA's April 2018 visit, 35 men were on the mental health caseload and 13 were identified as Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) at Kewanee. The facility has three psychologists who provide individual and group services. Survey results reflected the benefit of these staffing levels
as only 3% of the survey respondents at Kewanee reported they disagreed with the statement that mental health services were available, while 89% of agreed. This reflects a more positive response than JHA has received from IDOC facilities with dedicated mental health treatment units. Even some individuals who reported that they have not been in need of services stated that they felt there was always somebody around whom they could ask for help and get support from. Unlike most mental health staff positions throughout IDOC, mental health staff at Kewanee, other than the psychiatrist, are state, not contractual vendor Wexford Health Sources (Wexford), positions.

We were told that the Wexford doctor spends one day at the facility and that there were no backlogs for services. The reported lack of any backlog for mental health treatment or other healthcare services was a notable improvement over other IDOC facilities, where JHA frequently sees some backlogs number in the hundreds. For healthcare services generally, 25% of the survey respondents at Kewanee reported they were not satisfied with medical services, compared to 74% of JHA survey respondents at various IDOC facilities in 2017, while 49% of Kewanee respondents were satisfied, compared to 10% of 2017 respondents at other facilities.

One area where men at Kewanee more closely matched JHA’s survey results from other facilities related to the $5 copay that people within IDOC are assessed for most healthcare services; 61% of the Kewanee survey respondents reported that they avoid receiving healthcare services to avoid this fee, compared to 66% of 2017 respondents at other facilities. JHA continues to support abolishing the correctional copay and legislation is pending as of May 2018.

Administrators reported that they are planning to begin a hospice aide program and expect to have two to four patients to alleviate the burden at other facilities. They acknowledged that initiation of the hospice program may require an increase to healthcare provider coverage at the facility. JHA visitors saw the two rooms that will be used where they will likely paint murals, and the facility has received two hospital beds from other facilities. Ten men applied to be trained and serve as aides and six will be selected. JHA supports the establishment of these programs and has been pleased to see some other facilities adopt them, given the aging population, although we continue to lament the lack of this service and opportunity for incarcerated women in IDOC.

According to administrators the facility has not had need for use of crisis or suicide watch cells located in the healthcare unit. The area can also be used for medical isolation, such as for the flu, if needed. The area had been recently used to house a man who sustained a concussion as a sports injury for observation after he returned from an outside hospital. Individuals will also be held in investigatory or disciplinary segregation status/restrictive housing in the healthcare unit.

**Next Steps**

As administrators expressed the need to consider program integrity and space in population expansion, they noted a desire expand to provide more programming. The facility is in discussions regarding eventually expanding to have a vocational campus adjacent to the facility, which is a project that would take several years to develop. They stressed that when you consider all of the societal costs of recidivism, such skill-building programming opportunity will pay for itself. Based on current population, the reported cost per inmate at Kewanee is 2.5 times
that of the average IDOC inmate; however, because this cost estimate is calculated as the cost to operate the facility divided by the population, as the population increases the cost per inmate should decrease.

The facility also is still in the initial phases of building relationships with employers; however, administrators felt that they were still developing a needed vocational hook. They are looking forward to more planned employment skill-building programming starting, particularly Manufacturing Skills and Welding, and they hope to be able to continue building on computer training opportunities. While the facility does not yet have any formal relationships with employers, the Illinois Department of Employment Security has visited and administrators are interested in bringing prospective employers to the facility.

JHA inquired as to whether or not Kewanee staff thought that what we saw at the LSRC could be replicable at other facilities, perhaps with a reentry housing unit or some other format. Several believed it could. Administrators noted that although many staff weathered the transition from the juvenile closure to the LSRC opening and had time to develop new curriculum, etc., staff did not have any extra training specific to the LSRC model. Available training is the same as what is typically required for new IDOC employees or periodic departmental-wide trainings. The facility trainer emphasized the importance of respect and focusing on establishing a good rapport. JHA asked if Kewanee staff would be interested in offering training to others in IDOC about the LSRC model and staff expressed interest.

Administrators stated that they love sharing the facility with others and that they want people to come and see Kewanee, as you almost have to see it to believe it. They know that people may think it is too good to be true, and they want to show that they walk the walk, not just talk the talk. Since the visit, on April 16, 2018, the second IDOC LSRC in Murphysboro opened, housing 19 men.
## Appendix I – Inmate Survey Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Kewanee LSRC</th>
<th>2017 IDOC Aggregate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Responses</td>
<td>98 (45.6%)</td>
<td>7,322 (52.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>51% Black</td>
<td>59% Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26% White</td>
<td>24% White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14% Hispanic</td>
<td>11% Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4% Other</td>
<td>6% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>4% Under 26</td>
<td>13% Under 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33% 26-35</td>
<td>32% 26-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43% 36-45</td>
<td>27% 36-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13% 46-55</td>
<td>17% 46-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6% Over 55</td>
<td>11% Over 55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Kewanee Agree</th>
<th>Kewanee Disagree</th>
<th>IDOC 2017 Agree</th>
<th>IDOC 2017 Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1 I feel safe</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2: Most staff treat inmates with respect*</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3: Most inmates treat other inmates with respect*</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4: Mental Health Treatment is available*</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5: Most staff follow rules</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q6: My Correctional Counselor is effective</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q7: I am satisfied with medical services</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q8: I avoid health care to avoid $5 co-pay</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q9: The disciplinary process is fair</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10: This facility is safe for inmates</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q11: There is at least one staff member who I could ask for help</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q12: The grievance process is effective</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q13: I would feel comfortable filing a grievance</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q14: This facility is better now than last year*</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q15: Contraband from outside the facility often gets inside</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q16: There is frequent gang activity here</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q17: Mail is timely</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q18: Temperature is comfortable</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q19: Posted schedules are accurate</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q20: Ventilation is adequate</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q21: When something is broken it is fixed in a timely manner</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q22: I am satisfied with food from</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Kewanee Agree</td>
<td>IDOC 2017 Agree</td>
<td>Kewanee Disagree</td>
<td>IDOC 2017 Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q23: Clothing provided by state is adequate</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q24: I have adequate access to showers</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q25: Enough state hygiene items are provided</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q26: There is enough rec</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q27: I have adequate access to law library</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q28: I have enough access to phones</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q29: Helpful reentry info is provided by staff</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q30: Education programming is adequate*</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q31: Rehabilitative programming is adequate*</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that responses with more than a 50% difference are highlighted above - 20 of 31 questions. The 7,322 IDOC 2017 Aggregate survey responses represented 17.6% of IDOC’s total population.
Percentages reported above combine responses that Strongly Agree and Agree, as well as combining Disagree and Strongly Disagree results; will not total 100% as they do not reflect responses that were neutral or non-responsive and are rounded to whole numbers; and questions that differed in content or wording for the 2017 and Kewanee surveys are marked with an *. For more on JHA’s facility surveys visit our webpage: [http://www.thejha.org/prisonsurveys](http://www.thejha.org/prisonsurveys).
Some incarcerated men expressed that they felt crowded given the near doubling of the population from January to April 2018.

Administrators reported that lack of security staffing is not hindering expansion, rather staffing is a balancing act with population increases, and they plan to scale up staffing with the population expansion. In addition to eventually needing more security staff for opening housing units on the other side of the facility to double the facility population to operational capacity, this expansion will require more programming opportunity, space, and staff. Administrators reported that with the current population they were already running out of program space and were cautious about maintaining program integrity while increasing the population. There were almost as many staff employed at Kewanee as were incarcerated men, about 200. About 39% were female and 93% were Caucasian. At the time of the visit, two double-celled housing units on one side of the facility were opened, with one unfilled bed. The facility also can house men in a good-sized healthcare unit and an area that was formerly used for disciplinary confinement for youth. This area, which is adjacent to the healthcare unit, was being used for intake and administrators stated that so far men had been moved out onto housing units on the same day they entered the facility. JHA visitors observed that while this area was in better shape than when youth were housed there, it was the only part of the facility where we noted that old youth postings and murals remained.

Administrators reported there was no plan for this to occur. This report is based on a monitoring visit to Kewanee on April 12, 2018 and ongoing communications with incarcerated individuals, staff, and concerned citizens. IDOC officials and Kewanee administrators reviewed and fact-checked a draft of this report and it was last discussed with JHA on May 14, 2018. No factual substantive changes have been made since that time prior to publication. All statements of opinions and policy recommendations herein are JHA unless otherwise stated. See JHA’s 2013 publication How JHA’s Prison Monitoring Works, available at www.thejha.org/method. Incarcerated people may send privileged mail to JHA, P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042. Other concerned parties may also reach us by email or phone.

Some aspects that make Kewanee a better physical facility than others within IDOC are its smaller size, including smaller housing unit wing capacity; extensive camera coverage with live monitoring, which is unusual in IDOC and a remnant of when the facility housed juveniles; and air conditioning, which is also very rare throughout IDOC housing. JHA visitors found the facility to be clean and well equipped, especially in contrast with other IDOC...
facilities, and men’s comments also reflected this to be the case. In addition, staff who stayed at Kewanee through the transition from a youth facility to the Life Skills Reentry Center (LSRC) were more likely to have the advantage of already having had to adopt a more rehabilitative mission in their work with the juvenile incarcerated population, and were more likely to have had training in some correctional best practices for things such as use of de-escalation, due to enhanced requirements for IDJJ through the juvenile system consent decree in the R.J. case. See https://www.aclu-il.org/en/cases/rj-v-jones.

7 One idea discussed for this reimagined IDOC facility after the closure of the IDJJ facility was for housing for older incarcerated people, those 50 years old and above. These individuals now make up 18.5% of IDOC’s population, where nearly one in five people in custody would be considered an elderly in prison, which for incarcerated people corresponds with far higher health costs and greater needs. See IDOC’s Fact Sheet, INmates 50 Years of Age and Older on December 31, 2017, https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Documents/Final_50+_Fact_Sheet_12.31.17.pdf. Another idea floated for the repurposing of Kewanee was to house youthful offenders or people 18-25 who were in IDOC custody. This population typically has heightened risks and needs and investing in reducing the recidivism for this group may prove to result in substantial state long term savings, and other state correctional systems have explored this model. As of the latest public IDOC report showing individuals’ age, this population made up about 15% of individuals held in IDOC. See IDOC’s Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report, at page 75, data from June 30, 2016, https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/reportsandstatistics/Documents/FY2016%20Annual%20Report.pdf.

8 See e.g. https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/principles-of-recidivism-reduction/

9 See http://orbispartners.com/assessment/adult-assessment-spin/. The pre-screen for moderate to high risk for eligibility for Kewanee placement is a file review, based on only static factors. This screening will be done by trained social workers at the applicant’s facility, if the facility has one. JHA has found that several facilities we have visited have vacancies for such social workers. If the applicant’s facility does not have a social worker capable of doing the prescreen, Kewanee administrators reported that their staff will complete the review. Administrators reported that IDOC is working to have this prescreen completed at intake at IDOC Reception and Classification Centers. Currently, there is no way to determine how many men would meet the eligibility requirements for Kewanee, as must have not had risk assessments. Administrators also stated that IDOC is working to have the relevant static factors automatically populate from Offender 360, the computer system used in IDOC, so that staff will not have to do manual paper file reviews. One challenge of the paper file reviews used within IDOC is that the physical files can only be in one place, so if more than one IDOC department needs them at one time, things become logistically difficult and things are commonly delayed. The full SPIn risk assessment looking also at a person’s dynamic factors to match them to programming is only completed after the person is selected and arrives at Kewanee.

10 See https://govlab.hks.harvard.edu/.

11 27.2% had less than a year, 32% had less than two years, and 40.8% had more than two years (but less than four according to selection criteria).

12 Many of these men were able to benefit from Kewanee’s clean and well-organized clothing closet, which is used for men to get some clothing for when they are released, typically one suit and one casual outfit, but more if needed. The clothing closet has shelving specially made at the facility that gives it the appearance of a boutique. This area operates from staff and community donations. One non-profit organization that helps the facility with professional attire is Suits for Success, https://suitsforsuccess.net/, which partners with dry cleaners. Being able to wear nice clothes out of the prison helps the men to see themselves, and have others see them, not as former-inmates based on wearing state-issued clothing. Although historically people have been able to send in or drop off “dress outs” for individual people leaving custody, such clothing closets are becoming more common throughout IDOC and JHA applauds these efforts to help all returning citizens. Administrators noted that they had need of more shoes and duffle bags, so that the men did not have to leave with their property in a box. The men and staff also expressed hope that tattoo removal services could be made available at the facility to help them change or professionalize their appearance and reintegrate.

13 JHA noted that personal responsibility was also stressed in the Offender Orientation Manual. There does not appear to yet be a settled term for what to call the men incarcerated at Kewanee; we saw uses of offender, resident, and committed person in written materials.
It was a warm, sunny day during JHA’s visit and more than 60 men were on yard playing softball, lifting weights, playing cornhole, cards, flipping a giant tire, or just conversing. One man reported that requests for horseshoes and a pool table had been denied due to security concerns although some other facilities have allowed them.

Both gyms are in use, one primarily is used for weights and the other for basketball. JHA visitors noted the positive images and decorations from talented artists throughout the facility, such as a gym mural reading "Stronger than yesterday." JHA spoke with about six men in the library, several of whom were practicing on computers. We received some complaints regarding lack of law library materials. JHA has critiqued the lack of law library materials in youth facilities previously and since the materials were largely inherited from the former IYC, it is not surprising that things typically available in adult facility law libraries were missing. The library has a Lexis Nexis kiosk but did not yet have functionality. Survey results reflected that 85% of the survey respondents at Kewanee reported they had adequate access to law library, compared to 21.6% of survey respondents at various facilities in 2017. However, this may reflect positivity about Kewanee’s open movement access to the library as opposed to the actual legal materials available. JHA recommends that the law book holdings of this facility be reviewed and improved.

JHA visitors were particularly impressed with the open policy regarding visitation at the facility. Visitation is expected to be scheduled around the men’s assignment schedule but exceptions can be made. The men are expected to speak with staff running the assignment if they are planning not to attend, like one would do on the outside with a supervisor. There are not a set number of visits per month or time limits for visits and visitors are allowed to leave and come back the same day, which is not permitted elsewhere. Administrators reported they have not had issues with running out of visitation space but acknowledged that this is in part made possible by the small population. There were no visitors when JHA toured the area. The visiting room is bright and airy with activities for children available. Men are allowed to move freely around the visiting room unlike at other facilities, where incarcerated people must remain at their assigned seat. The facility will accommodate larger groups for special visitation. They had had a large group for a man’s birthday recently. Administrators also stated that they had allowed family members with past offenses to visit. The visitation room had a photo backdrop and at Christmas had let people take photos, including permitting men without visitors to take a photo to send home to their family. Staff seemed taken aback to have learned that some men’s family had not seen an image of them in years. JHA has been advocating for years for a photo program to return and this is supposed to be reinstated at all IDOC facilities as of April 2018 and resume as soon as equipment is obtained. JHA will continue to monitor this roll out.

Staff commented that because of open access to dietary and commissary some men put on 20 pounds. Some staff have incorporated more nutritional education in their courses.

JHA also offers a staff survey; however, as staff are also offered the opportunity of taking the survey online outside of the timeframe of the visit, JHA’s IDOC staff survey results will not be finalized until the end of 2018. JHA encourages staff participation and welcomes any questions.

The 2017 IDOC aggregate survey responses were collected and compiled from the following prisons located throughout Illinois: Decatur, which is a female minimum-security facility; East Moline, which is a male minimum-security facility; Hill, Pinckneyville, Menard Medium, and Western Illinois, which are male medium-security facilities; Sheridan, which is a male substance abuse treatment medium-security facility; and Menard and Stateville, which are male maximum-security facilities. JHA survey results are made available on our webpage at http://www.thejha.org/prisonsurveys, or upon request once results are finalized. One individual JHA spoke with at Kewanee expressed that he had not filled out a survey because he had done them at two other institutions in the past year, and those prisons were still in poor shape. Another individual commented regarding JHA surveys that some people have an unrealistic expectation of what prison is like, so they are angry. Unfortunately, we anticipate that the type of improvements we seek, which include raising expectations of Illinois prisons to provide humane and productive environments, will take more time to achieve. However, seeing Kewanee change from an unsuitable youth facility as the number of incarcerated youth fell in the state, to a facility that is giving staff and incarcerated people alike new hope for Illinois corrections and rehabilitative potential, feels like a substantial step forward within a relatively short period of time. We acknowledge the crowding, poor physical plant conditions, lack of programming, and funding, as well as punitive attitudes, etc. at other larger and less well-resourced facilities will take likely take much longer to improve.
During the Kewanee visit, men also expressed their opinions and contrasted their experiences to other facilities where they were previously incarcerated. For example, one man who had been at a southern high-medium security prison reported that there were "f**razy," while at Kewanee things are good. Another man who had been housed a minimum-security facility, which typically do not house many men with more serious offenses, stated that even compared to that, Kewanee was "more relaxed." As one man stated you "don't have to worry about the sky falling in." Others who had been housed at various facilities reported issues ranging from physical plant complaints to instances of staff misconduct at their prior prisons, while they reported at Kewanee things are clean and different. As one described relations with staff, "the staff here aint like any other place. They aint bothering you if you aint bothering them." One man opined when asked if other facilities could be more like Kewanee, that he felt that if staff were like at Kewanee elsewhere they would worry about being soft or taken advantage of.

At Kewanee, only 2% of the survey respondents reported that they did not feel there was at least one staff person they could ask for help, compared to 37% of 2017 respondents to JHA's survey at other IDOC facilities. Similarly, only 2% of respondents at Kewanee reported that they felt the facility was unsafe for themselves or other incarcerated people, compared to more than half of all other respondents to JHA's 2017 survey at other facilities.

This was contrasted to other facilities where men had reportedly been told by staff "we will save a bed or see you in six months" when they leave.

Correctional counselor caseloads at this facility are around 35 people compared to several hundred at most other IDOC facilities. Survey results reflected this difference in staffing as only 10% of the survey respondents at Kewanee reported they disagreed with the statement that their correctional counselor was effective, compared to 63% of survey respondents at various facilities in 2017, while 74% of Kewanee respondents agreed their counselor was effective, compared to 18% of 2017 IDOC respondents. Administrators stressed that Kewanee counselors are required to see people on their caseload for a "meaningful interaction" every other week, which is documented; this is far more frequent than the IDOC standard of counselor contacts every 60 days for general population and 30 days for people in segregation. One man at Kewanee stated "counselors actually help."

Survey results for Kewanee showed 22% of the survey respondents reported they did not feel the grievance process was effective, compared to 83% of survey respondents at various facilities in 2017, while 32% of Kewanee respondents felt it was effective, compared to 4% of 2017 respondents at other facilities. Additionally, 45% of the Kewanee survey respondents reported they would be comfortable filing a grievance and 25% would not, compared to 13% and 71% of 2017 respondents at other IDOC facilities.

Some issues that men at Kewanee brought to our attention included concerns regarding men going into others' cells, which were raised to administrators, some men felt that they were celled with people who were not compatible, and some felt that they would like a stricter screening process for people to come to the facility, making it more like honor housing. Some expressed issues with the facility's cable, and issues with the wireless connectivity coverage in the facility for GTL MP3 players. The MP3 units cost $94 and the men can buy packages for music, messaging, and games, where the content expires if not renewed. Administrators noted they would be interested in having more educational programming be available through this format as well. Some men expressed issues with the copay for healthcare services, or individual healthcare issues, and lack of sufficient vocational offerings, as discussed further herein. We spoke with one man who stated that he was issued tickets by staff who lied about his conduct. This is a far more common complaint at other facilities.

At Kewanee 13% of the men who responded to JHA surveys reported that they did not think the disciplinary process is fair, compared to 77% of the 2017 JHA survey respondents throughout IDOC. Of course, men who are disciplined at Kewanee for major tickets would no longer be at the facility.

One man observed that it "Can be hard to adjust, wish they'd give us more time. It's one and done for us; yet the [Correctional Officers] don't get kicked out and get multiple chances for their behavior and we're just getting used to it. Well so are we!"

JHA appreciated the focus on use of computers and other technology at the facility, since it is vital to many workplaces. We encourage the facility to also to explore education about other technology to aid those who have been incarcerated for longer periods. See e.g. Colorado DOC's use of virtual reality, https://news.vice.com/en_us/article/bjym3w/this-prison-is-using-vr-to-teach-inmates-how-to-live-on-the-outside.
30 One mental health staff member expressed that having smaller groups would be preferred. Another pointed out the differences of working with men who have not been incarcerated very frequently or for a long time, compared to working with those who have served longer terms of incarceration, or who have cycled in and out of the system, some who have been incarcerated since they were juveniles. He observed that those who have been incarcerated much of their lives often have heightened anxiety as they approach release and staff need to address different needs.

31 The populations of offenses included 28 Murder convictions, 122 Class X, 74 Class 1, 109 Class 2, 58 Class 3, and 35 Class 4 convictions. Thirteen of the men at the facility would have to register as sex offenders upon release. The facility also had two men who were door violators, meaning that they have passed their projected release date and could be released but for their lack of approved housing for serving their parole term and must serve their parole time incarcerated until a host site is approved or they max out by serving half of their parole time in a facility. Administrators stated that they did not house any sex offenders at the time of the visit who had three-years-to-life parole terms; for those individuals, because half of their parole term is indeterminate, they may remain incarcerated indefinitely. Administrators did note that they would not accept a new applicant who was a door violator, e.g. already serving his parole time, at another facility although such a person could meet other placement criteria. The issue of door violators is a problem throughout IDOC. See JHA's September 20, 2017 Public Testimony for the Sex Offenses and Sex Offender Registration Task Force, http://www.thejha.org/statement092017. Kewanee, like almost all IDOC facilities, does not offer any specific sex offender treatment because they do not have qualified staff, even though the former youth facility was designated for juvenile sex offender treatment.

32 Administrators stated that representatives from Cabrini Green Legal Aid and the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Pekin facility wanted to come offer educational presentations.

33 See https://nicic.gov/thinking-for-a-change.

34 One staff member recounted how one man took a while to feel comfortable choosing to be in his cell because he had been conditioned to not to want to be locked in and would stay out as long as possible, and he had to learn to feel comfortable with his ability to come and go as he wished.

35 One man stated he had taken a college correspondence course but he could no longer afford it.

36 Note that the JHA 2017 survey asked this question differently, coupling rehabilitative and educational programming adequacy in one question, and this may somewhat skew the direct comparison.

37 For example, some men had started a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) study group with assistance from the librarian who helped them locate educational resources.

38 See eligibility requirements at 20 Il. Admin. Code 455.30, http://ilga.gov/commission/ijar/ADMINCODE/020/02000455000300R.html. We note that over 2017, IDOC was not filling ATC or work camp beds. As of the end of April 2018, the male ATCs are at 83% rated capacity, indicating that there are over a hundred open beds. We believe this issue requires review.

39 One non-denominational service offered weekly by Heritage Church has outgrown the chapel capacity and is now held in a gym. This church has also made donations to the facility to remodel the chapel and facilitate services. Since their services include music, they plan to install a media system, which will be able to be used for other programming. Such generosity is needed given that IDOC does not have the budget to make such improvements. Staff reported that Islamic services to not have an outside facilitator but that services are held twice a week.

40 During the visit, some men voiced concerns regarding phone access. However, because the men have open access to dayroom phones and there are four phones per wing housing 36 men, this was less of an issue than JHA sees at other facilities. On the other hand, with men being in programming during the same times and the lower phone rates implemented by a change to the state law at the beginning of 2018, JHA visitors felt there may also be more demand at certain times. Survey results reflected that only 4% of the survey respondents at Kewanee reported they did not have enough access to phones, compared to 55% of survey respondents at various facilities in 2017. JHA has recommended at several facilities that phone access be improved, through increasing out of cell time and access, as well as getting more phones installed. We hear that this lack of access is the cause of fights between incarcerated people and where many people are trying to use phones during limited timeframes, it is blatant that not everyone will be able to use them.

41 See above note 17.
The facility takes a case-by-case look at non-biological children for participation and will include step-children where the men have been a parental figure in their lives. The event included a seminar for the men on co-parenting as well as activities for the children’s caregivers. The facility assisted with transportation from the Amtrak station, offered a barbecue, and men at the facility built games, including a 9-hole mini-golf course with a Where the Wild Things Are theme, bean bag tosses, a frog jump, and a nose picking game. The children were given school supplies and backpacks based on their request. They painted birdhouses and photo frames made by their dads that they could also take home and were able to take family photos. The event had some grant funding but also received donations. See e.g. Tatyana Fykes, Kewanee facility is helping inmates bond with their kids, KWQC (August 19, 2017), http://www.kwqc.com/content/news/Kewanee-facility-is-helping-inmates-bond-with-their-kids-441093233.html.

In 2018 survey responses from Logan, 18% of the women disagreed with the statement that mental health services were available and 56% agreed they were; at Dixon, 24% of the men disagreed services were available, while 45% reported they were; lastly, at Pontiac, more men thought that mental health services were unavailable, 37%, then thought they were, 32%.

Staff can develop their own curriculum and are not limited to the Wexford workbooks used at other facilities, so that they offer new materials, e.g. Anger Management at Kewanee will be different than what the men might have done elsewhere. Mental health programming offerings include: critical thinking, grief and loss, Two Roads (restorative justice), anxiety, depression, trauma, domestic violence, and other special programs. Mental health staff also discussed programming focusing on de-institutionalization and the impact of incarceration on mental health. Groups use both staff presentations of materials and input from the men about lived experiences. Some men on the mental health caseload are seen individually weekly, others every other week. However, staff will also talk to them as needed, for example if they are having interpersonal issues. Mental health staff stated that security is excellent at relaying issues to them. Staff mentioned that they also try to teach autonomy in seeking services, as on the outside the therapist will not chase them down, and that it can at time be difficult to see the men because they are in so much programming, but they are well-supported.

The facility has a state employee Healthcare Unit Administrator. Wexford staff numbers were requested but not provided. There were three Wexford nurses onsite during our visit. We received one complaint regarding having to wait 3 weeks for the dentist to be at the facility.

Several men believed they were assessed the copay improperly. One man’s only complaint about the facility was regarding the copay and having to pay for each of three visits to see doctor about the same problem, for a total of $15. Another man did not like that the facility charged the $5 every time, just frustrating as they charge you every single time, while someone else opined that the fees should be proportionate to the pay they receive, which for many is just $10 a month.


Such as https://www.launchcode.org/

JHA also encouraged more education about eligibility for supportive services available upon release and application processes, as we heard some questions from a few of the men about whether people exiting prison have universal automatic eligibility for Social Security Disability Insurance, instead of this being an individual determination, which is a common rumor in prisons. See https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10133.pdf. Administrators stressed that, where needed, they will help connect people with state agencies for services.
This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA’s Executive Director, Jennifer Vollen Katz, at (312) 291-9555 or jvollen@thejha.org.

Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois’ juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions.

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