DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff-Coroner
Public Administrator

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COUNTY OF KERN

Telephone (661) 391-7500

1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

July 26, 2024

Ridgecrest Substation Court-Holding PREA Staffing Plan 2024

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA, standard 115.13) requires each facility operated by this agency to develop, document, and provide a staffing plan for adequate levels of staffing and video monitoring, where applicable, to protect incarcerated persons against sexual assault and abuse.

The requirements set forth by PREA is that this agency operates its facilities using generally accepted detention and correctional practices. The Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Detentions Bureau is inspected every two years by the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

The Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Ridgecrest Substation currently operates a court-holding facility. This facility used to operate as a fully functional jail; however, arrestees are no longer booked at the facility and inmates are no longer housed in the facility. When the Ridgecrest Jail was operational for booking and housing, it was staffed with [redacted] If at any time the Ridgecrest Jail is occupied again, this staffing plan will be followed until a new staffing plan is adopted.

Housing Units

The Ridgecrest Facility has three 4-man cells, two single cells, one detox cell (used as a court holding cell only), two attorney booths, and one holding cell. The facility has a jail office, a booking office, kitchen, storage room, janitorial supply closet, [redacted]

The facility operates as a court-holding on [redacted] and [redacted] Subjects remanded at court into the Sheriff's custody are also held in the court-holding cells only on [redacted] Remanded subjects are then transported to Lerdo Justice Facility and booked. If the remanded subject needs medical clearance prior to being booked, they are transported to a medical facility and cleared.

The Ridgecrest Substation is staffed with [redacted] sergeant, [redacted] senior deputy, [redacted] deputies, and [redacted] court deputies. The sergeant supervises both the substation and the court-holding facility while the senior deputy manages the day-to-day operations of the court-holding facility. Transportation Unit deputies transport inmates to and from the county jails to the Ridgecrest Substation court-holding facility on [redacted] The transportation deputies complete all the mandated deck checks and logging documentation while at the facility.

In developing the above staffing plan, the Kern County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with its Detentions Bureau and Ridgecrest Substation court-holding facility manager, has considered the following factors:

1) Generally accepted detention and correctional practices:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office continually reviews National Institute of Corrections updates and other organization's updates. The Kern County Sheriff's Office is a member of the American Jail Association and the National Sheriff's Association. We constantly network with other jails in the State of California and some jails out of state to stay up to date and review alternative methods to ensure the safety and security of the facility.

2) Any judicial findings of inadequacy:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office has had no judicial findings for the Ridgecrest jail facility.

3) Any findings of inadequacy from Federal investigative agencies:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office Ridgecrest jail facility has not had any Federal investigative findings of inadequacy.

4) Any findings of inadequacy from internal or external oversight bodies:

The Kern County Sheriff's Office participates in biannual inspections from the Bureau of State Community Corrections (BSCC) to ensure compliance with Title 15 and Title 24 regulations.

5) All components of the facility's physical plant (including "blind spots" or areas where staff or incarcerated persons may be isolated):

Blind spots due to physical design and opportunities for misconduct due to the staffing structure have been mitigated by the installation of a recorded surveillance system. The video surveillance footage is routinely reviewed by deputies to ensure compliance with KCSO policies. There are 19 cameras in total at the facility.

6) *The composition of the incarcerated persons population:*

Inmates detained at the Kern County Sheriff's Office Ridgecrest Substation court-holding facility are generally comprised of court-holding inmates for the Ridgecrest Branch of the Kern County Superior Court.

7) The number and placement of supervisory staff:

The facility supervisor is on duty primarily during the day and often fills other shifts for staff who are off on vacation, training, or ill. Substation patrol deputies enter the facility periodically.

8) Institution programs occurring on a particular shift:

As a temporary holding facility there are no programs provided at the Ridgecrest Substation court-holding facility.

9) Any applicable State or local laws, regulations, or standards:

There are no applicable State or local laws that apply to staffing in a county jail. State Regulations under Title 15 of the Board of State Community Corrections require adequate staffing to ensure inmate safety.

10)The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse:

The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse that were taken into consideration while developing this staffing plan can be viewed at the following link: https://www.kernsheriff.org/Prea

11)Any other relevant factors:

There are no other relevant factors at the Ridgecrest Substation court-holding facility that affect its ability to detect, prevent, and respond to issues of sexual abuse, assault, or harassment of incarcerated persons in its care and custody.

The staffing plan below establishes basic security staffing positions and levels to ensure a safe and secure environment for inmates and staff.

Real-time video monitoring of receiving, holding cells, live scan/dress out room, and hallways shall provide additional inmate safety.

Staff positions identified for security operational purposes are guidelines and shall be flexible according to facility needs.

Serious/emergency incidents or staffing may result in restricted operation of the Ridgecrest facility.

Definitions

Normal operations – Regular, daily operations, that occur without incident under normal
procedures resulting in no staff reductions.

Limited operations – Occurs when a staff member is out for training, vacation, or illness. Senior Detentions Deputy to resume staff member duties.

Restricted operations – Serious/emergency occurs, or staffing is not available resulting in halting of all facility operations.

Limited event – Example: training or inspection.

Unexpected event – Example: illness.

Serious incidents – Example: death, major assault, inmate illness or power disruption.

Emergency events – Example: natural disaster, fire, riot, civil unrest, terrorism.

Normal Operation: Sergeant*/Senior (except weekends)

Jail Office
Y

*Night Sergeant On-duty seven days a week
Day Sergeant On-duty Monday through Friday

Limited Operation: Sergeant*/Senior (except weekends)

Jail Office
Y

*Night Sergeant On-duty seven days a week
Day Sergeant On-duty Monday through Friday

Restricted Operation: Sergeant*/Senior (except weekends)

Jail Office
N

*Facility closure

The 2024 review did not indicate the need for adjustment to the facility's staffing level as compared to the staffing levels established in 2023. Staffing levels for the facility will remain as described in Section P-200 of **DBPPM** and the above-mentioned 2023 staffing plan unless revised during a future review.

Sincerely,

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD, Sheriff-Coroner

By:

Brian Santiago, Lieutenant
Ridgecrest Substation

LT SH

Jaime Hernandez, Detentions Lieutenant
Compliance Section / PREA Coordinator