

Franklin County Detention Center (FCDC) Board of Visitor - Executive Summary for 2025

REPORT COMPLETED DECEMBER 2024

The Franklin County Board of Visitors (FCBOV) met monthly in 2024 to develop concrete improvement recommendations in the following areas:

- Staff recruitment and retention,
- Detention center infrastructure,
- Inmate access (communication, visitation and computer access),
- Inmate classification and segregation,
- Medical and mental health services,
- Education,
- Re-entry services (forensic intensive case manager, Maine Pretrial services, treatment and recovery court & peer recovery coaching),
- Other inmate services (food services, resident worker status, no-contact and codefendant issues, recreation, commissary, handbook and policies and resident items issued).

The FCBOV conducted interviews and engaged in discussions with jail administrators, correctional officer staff, and contracted personnel (including medical, pre-trial, case management, and inmates). The recommendations were primarily based on insights obtained from these interactions, as well as established best practices for rural detention centers.

HIGH LEVEL SUCCESS FROM LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

1. FCDC has been working on important renovations for the medical wing. This is an essential improvement and in the fall of 2024 the project was bid on and approved. The project is expected to start in the spring of 2025.
2. FC Sheriff's Office was awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant & Substance Use Program (COSSUP) grant. This grant provides one million dollars over a three-year period to address many areas of the FCBOV recommendations.
3. Education and knowledge increased about the drug treatment court program with about 20 residents who were referred. There are still challenges here as a low percentage enrolled and this is due to many factors including drug court location and logistics.

FCBOV PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2025:

These priority areas are grounded in the funding allocated through the COSSUP grant:

- **Address Staff Recruitment and Retention:** Efforts will include addressing turnover rate, updating staff wellness policies to shift the culture to promote health and wellness and hire additional Correctional Officers and a Re-entry Coordinator.
- **Maximize Jail Space:** Renovation efforts will focus on optimizing space within the facility.
- **Implement Inmate In-house and Re-entry Programs:** Programs will be designed to promote restorative practices among inmates, including the development of a comprehensive re-entry program.
- **Enhance Medical and Mental Health Services:** An expert in Addiction Medicine will be hired as the Jail Addiction Medicine Medical Director. This role includes developing workflows and processes to implement extended-release buprenorphine medication for residents with opioid use disorder.
- **Improve Data Collection Efforts:** Develop methodology to track recidivism rates with the goal of evaluating effectiveness of initiatives outlined in the BOV report and COSSUP grant.