



CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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March 27th, 2026

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I offer the following response to the recommendations made by the Cumberland County Jail Board of Visitors pursuant to Title 30A, Part 1, Chapter 13: County Jails and Jailers §1651, Examination of Jails; Board of Visitors.

Continued Investment in Behavioral Health Services

The security and mental health staff meet on a weekly basis to discuss and strategize engagement of offenders who have mental health challenges to manage this type of population properly. The aforementioned strategies are reviewed and updated to align with best practices.

Kyle Manahan, who was the Health Services Administrator (HSA) for the majority of 2025, worked with security staff to manage those suffering from mental health concerns, behavioral concerns, and substance use disorders. In September 2025, we had a change of leadership and our current Health Services Administrator (HSA) continues to work with inmates and staff in our Special Housing Unit in an attempt to identify patterns that might indicate why various inmates are prone to being sent to the Special Housing Unit (SHU) and methods of early intervention.

Lastly, in November 2025, we opened a new medical pod expansion. The old medical area is currently being rehabilitated so that upon completion, we can make that area a specialty pod for inmates with mental and/or behavioral health needs. This pod will allow us to keep those individuals with mental and/or behavioral health needs in one area as well as stationing our mental health staff in the same pod.

Strengthening Reentry Coordination

We have had some turn over within our reentry program. In late 2025, one of our reentry staff members left her position for another job opportunity. Additionally, our Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) nurse left and the position was eventually filled by our inmate health services provider. Recently, our reentry coordinator left for another job opportunity as well. We are currently trying to fill our two vacant reentry positions with dedicated and qualified staff. Chief Deputy Brian Pellerin is working with corrections leadership and the county's human resources department to restructure and improve the reentry program.

Workforce Training and Retention

Like every other employer in southern Maine, we still struggle to hire and retain correctional staff. While we continually hire staff, some find that a career in corrections is not what they expected and



resign. Additionally, there are times when new employees are not the best fit for the demands of the job and either quit or are terminated. In 2026, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office continues to seek qualified and dedicated individuals to hire as corrections officers.

Lastly, we realize that part of retention is quality in-person training. Due to our staffing needs, allowing staff to attend in-person trainings is challenging and we often require online training. As staffing continues to improve, so will our ability to support in-person training.

Technology and Security Infrastructure

While still considered a new facility, the Cumberland County Jail is 34 years old. The technology and security infrastructure is very outdated in some cases. The automatic door infrastructure is scheduled to be replaced over the summer of 2026. Additionally, the roof is scheduled to be replaced.

Future projects for consideration include additional cameras, technology that alerts staff of inmate emergencies, key boxes, new bunks, and upgrading to brighter and more cost-effective lighting.

Ongoing Monitoring of Medical and Emergency Preparedness

Jail staff have been researching technology that alerts corrections staff if it detects a medical event with an inmate. Identifying funding and the most dependable and cost-effective technology out of the many options are the current challenges.

Additionally, the Cumberland County Jail is working with our new inmate medical service provider, Corrections Focused Guidance (CFG), to introduce telemedicine technology to the jail. While we plan to implement the technology slowly, it is our hope that with the routine use of telemedicine, we will better serve inmates as well as reduce hospital details.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Joyce, Sheriff
Cumberland County

