

January 16, 2026

I want to start by extending my gratitude to the volunteers who participated in the 2025 Correctional Facilities Community Inspection Program (CFCIP). Since the passing of Measure 26-233 in 2022, members of the public have accompanied our Board of County Commissioners to conduct an additional inspection of our correctional facilities. The selected volunteers who visited the Multnomah County Detention Center (MCDC) and Multnomah County Inverness Jail (MCIJ) played a key role in promoting the transparency our community deserves by sharing their observations and recommendations, available in reports posted on the [CFCIP webpage](#).

Support for this additional inspection comes from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) and Central Communications, all of whom contributed to ensuring that the Commissioners and volunteers were able to gain an accurate picture of what goes on in our correctional facilities. In the spirit of the measure, it's imperative that the County takes all observations and recommendations seriously so that we can hold ourselves accountable.

I appreciate the detailed feedback and concerns raised by this year's volunteers, much of which is consistent with findings from previous community inspections. These issues — notably pertaining to staffing, infrastructure, equity and reentry services — coincide with top priorities within the [MCSO Corrections Recommendations Project](#), which affirms that we are focusing on the most pressing challenges identified by our community and partners.

Addressing these findings requires deep collaboration between the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department and its Corrections Health Division, the Chief Operating Officer's Office and the Board of County Commissioners. Through the Interagency Workgroup and an Executive Table formed in April 2025, these groups continue to work on removing systemic barriers and translating feedback from all required inspections into direct action.

The County has demonstrated its commitment to the safety and well-being of those in custody, as well as the staff, in the face of considerable headwinds. In the fiscal year 2026 budget — as the County faced a \$21 million dollar shortfall that required departments to conduct an exercise where they identified 3%, 8%, 10% and 12% reductions — Chair Jessica Vega Pederson held MCSO and Corrections Health harmless to maintain, with no constraints, the level of service of the public safety system and the Sheriff's Office's priorities.

Maintaining our facilities remains a top priority. Four years ago, Multnomah County committed to a significant capital improvement plan, which includes approximately \$20 million in work at MCDC and several million dollars in planned upgrades at MCIJ. These major improvements, including those to electrical, HVAC, fire, and roofing systems, are essential to addressing the aging infrastructure noted by volunteers.

For Corrections Health, a primary focus this fiscal year was making the physical infrastructure modifications necessary to meet certain Drug Enforcement Administration requirements. These upgrades were essential for the secure storage and administration of life-saving medications, ensuring physical spaces support modern medical and behavioral health standards.

Volunteers also shared concerns about staffing and ratios regarding Adults in Custody (AIC). Achieving a well-staffed and highly trained workforce remains an essential priority for both MCSO and Corrections Health. MCSO staffing shortages are due in large part to a significant increase in recent retirements of PERS-eligible sworn staff. Meanwhile, legislative mandates and community expectations add to the complexity of hiring, with increasingly diverse skillsets needed in today's public safety environment. With additional funding provided last year and improvements to their hiring process, MCSO is making progress in hiring more staff.

We know that communities of color are disproportionately represented in the carceral system, so it's critical that we apply an equity lens to all services. Corrections Health has made a commitment to ensure their hiring policies and procedures reinforce equity so that they can build a more diverse workforce that brings successful experience working with the communities we serve. Corrections Health has also enhanced the quality and timeliness of the selection process, and has also increased community outreach. Improved morale and culture change have further fostered an environment that attracts more talent and increased retention.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to this process. We look forward to the continued implementation of these recommendations and to building upon this vital work in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Christopher Neal  
Chief Operating Officer  
Multnomah County