

Bret Austin, Chairman



**Adams County Board
507 Vermont Street
Quincy, IL. 62301**

ADAMS COUNTY BOARD

COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2025

7 P.M.

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE COUNTY BOARD
ADAMS COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**COUNTY OF ADAMS)
STATE OF ILLINOIS)**

The County Board of Adams County, Illinois met at the Courthouse, Quincy, Illinois, on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7:01 P.M., pursuant to recess.

PRESENT: Bret Austin, Chairman
Ryan A. Niekamp, County Clerk
Todd Eyer, States Attorney

Chairman Austin called the meeting to order.

Pastor Brian Hess from Columbus Road Baptist Church gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The County Clerk called the roll and the following members were present: Mark Sorensen, Barbara Fletcher, Dave Bellis, Marvin Kerkhoff, Mark Dietrich, Jeremy Farlow, Travis Cooley, Robert Reich, Tim Finlay, Jon McCoy, Brad Poulter, David McCleary, John Gunther, Brent Fischer, Joe Zanger, Russ Hinkamper, Timothy Siemer, Keith Callaway and Bret Austin.

Total Present: 19 Absent: 2

Absent were: Ryan Hinkamper and Steve McQueen, both excused.

Chairman Austin declared a quorum present.

Officeholders, department heads, and/or their representatives also present were:
Lisa Gasko- Supervisor of Assessments, Lori Geschwandner-Circuit Clerk, Anthony Foster- Director of Court Services, John Simon-EMA & Ambulance Director, Jim Frankenhoff- County Engineer, Amy Carothers-County Board Office Director, Jessica Frese- Ambulance Department, Scott Graham-Coroner, John Citro- Chief Public Defender and Paul Havermale- Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission.

At this time, Alex Ussery and Mark Hibbs were awarded a token of appreciation for all of their work they did for the Bicentennial Commission.

Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2025 county board meeting as printed and distributed which was seconded by Mr. Fischer.
Motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2025 meeting as printed was adopted.

Transportation, Building & Technology

Committee Report (Mr. Bellis)

Bills – The committee met on December 9, 2025 and reviewed the bills for the Highway Department, the Maintenance Department, and the Technology Department. All the bills were in order.

Resolutions

- a. 2025-12-501-029 - Resolution granting a Special Use Permit to Gem City Solar, LLC, for the construction and operation of a 175 MWAC Commercial Solar Energy Facility in Burton Township. (Attachment A-1)

The clerk read the resolution by title only.

Mr. McCleary made a motion to approve the resolution which was seconded by Mr. Bellis.

Barbara Fletcher, Dave Bellis, Marvin Kerkhoff, Jeremy Farlow, Travis Cooley, Robert Reich, Tim Finlay, Brad Poulter, David McCleary, John Gunther, Brent Fischer, Joe Zanger, Russ Hinkamper, Timothy Siemer, Keith Callaway and Bret Austin.

Those opposed were: Mark Sorensen, Mark Dietrich, Jon McCoy

Total in favor was 16. Total opposed was 3. Total absent was 2.

The resolution was approved.

- b. 2025-12-501-030 – Resolution appropriating \$60,000.00 from the Township Bridge Program Fund for engineering services to be provided by Klingner and Associates, P.C. for the replacement of the bridge carrying East 2200th Street over Bigneck Creek in Houston Township and authorizing the County Board Chairman to sign the agreement. (Attachment A-2)

The clerk read the resolution by title only.

Mr. McCleary made a motion to approve the resolution which was seconded by Mr. Zanger.

The resolution was approved.

New Business

Mr. Bellis brought up plumbing issues in the jail. They got a price for \$190,000 to do upgrades. The committee unanimously approved it for the safety and wellbeing of those

involved and they would like it to be taken out of the jail fund.

Mr. Bellis reported on a bill a company waited 2 years to send to the county. There was a bill from 2019 and the committee declined the bill.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Legislative & Judicial

Committee Report (Mr. Reich)

Bills – The committee met on December 9, 2025 and reviewed bills from the Circuit Clerk, Juvenile Detention Center, Probation Department, Public Defender, State's Attorney, and the Supervisor of Assessments. All the bills were in order.

Reports

a. Update on Video Gaming Ordinance

The committee will have an ordinance to present to the full board next month.

b. Battery Energy Storage System Ordinance

Mr. Reich stated they are aware of the issues that surround these and they are trying to be ahead of it. Mr. Russ Hinkamper stated he read something online that there was a battery storage facility coming to Adams County. Mr. Austin stated that there is a company that brought up the idea of having one in Adams County, however, there are no official plans. Mr. Russ Hinkamper asked if it falls under solar-type process. Mr. Reich stated that the board can just set permitting and a couple other things. Mr. Dietrich asked if it is generation and storage and Mr. Austin stated it was. Mr. Callaway asked how many other facilities there are in Illinois. Mr. Austin didn't think there were many.

Resolutions/Ordinances/Action

a. Resolution Number 2025-12-401-001 - State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor Fund (Attachment B-1)

The clerk read the resolution by title only.

Mr. Reich made a motion to approve the resolution which was seconded by Mr. McCoy.

Discussion: It is \$31,000 to fund this line. Mr. Eyler stated this is already in the budget. This position is for someone to handle a case when the States Attorneys have direct conflict. It is an annual amount and it does not go up very often.

The resolution was approved.

Appointments

The board voted on the following three appointments together:

a. Re-Appointment of John Begeman as a Trustee to the Mendon Fire Protection District for a Three-Year Term

- b. Re-Appointment of Kevin Beck as a Trustee to the Mendon Fire Protection District for a Two-Year Term
 - c. Re-Appointment of Kelsey Simmons as a Trustee to the Mendon Fire Protection District for a Two-Year Term
- Mr. Reich made a motion to approve the appointments which was seconded by Mr. Farlow.
The appointments were approved.

Mr. Reich stated that the Juvenile Detention Center had an inspection recently and they did amazing. He complimented Mr. Foster and the rest of the staff who have turned the facility around.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Public Health & Safety

Committee Report (Mr. Fischer)

Bills – The committee met on December 9, 2025 and reviewed the bills for the Sheriff's Office, Coroner's Office, Emergency Management Agency, Veterans Assistance Commission and Animal Control. All the bills were in order.

Reports-

- a. Coroner Refrigerated Mortuary Cabinet
Mr. Fischer stated that they have been looking at different options. As of tonight, it looks like they will have a resolution for that after the HVAC project is done. The idea they have will improve things all around.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Executive Committee

Committee Report (Mr. Reich)

The committee did not meet in December.

The committee's next meeting will be Monday, January 5, 2026

Finance

Committee Report (Mr. Cooley)

Bills – The committee met on December 8, 2025 and reviewed the bills. All the bills were in order.

Resolution/Ordinances

- a. 2025-12-161-001 – Ordinance to Increase the Annual Salary of the Supervisor of Assessments (Attachment C-1)

The clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Mr. Cooley made a motion to approve the ordinance which was seconded by Mr. Finlay.

Discussion: Mr. Cooley stated this will raise it 2% and we do this resolution to get state reimbursement.

The ordinance was approved.

- b. 2025-12-001-003 – Resolution to Authorize the use of OPIOID Money for the Regional Office of Education #1 (Attachment C-2)

The clerk read the resolution by title only.

Mr. Cooley made a motion to approve the resolution which was seconded by Mr. Poulter.

Discussion: Mr. Cooley explained it authorizes \$1,800 from OPIOD settlement funds to support substance abused educational programs in our local junior high schools.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the resolution. Those in favor were: Mark Sorensen, Barbara Fletcher, Dave Bellis, Marvin Kerkhoff, Mark Dietrich, Jeremy Farlow, Travis Cooley, Robert Reich, Tim Finlay, Jon McCoy, Brad Poulter, David McCleary, John Gunther, Brent Fischer, Joe Zanger, Russ Hinkamper, Timothy Siemer, Keith Callaway and Bret Austin.

The resolution was approved.

At this time, Mr. Cooley made a motion to suspend the December 9th, 2025 meeting and resume the September 9th, 2025 meeting for the purpose of setting the levy which was seconded by Mr. Reich.

The motion was approved and the September 9th board meeting was resumed.

- c. 2025-12-001-002 – Ordinance to Adopt the Tax Levy for Tax Year 2025

The clerk read the ordinance by title only. (Attachment C-3)

Mr. Cooley made a motion to approve the ordinance which was seconded by Mr. Finlay.

Discussion: Mr. Cooley stated this levy reflects a 4.6% increase over last year's amount. Mr. Austin stated that the levy is the money that we need and the choice they make as a board. Mr. Callaway asked what we can do to attract more revenue instead of taxing more.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the ordinance. Those in favor were: Mark Sorensen, Barbara Fletcher, Dave Bellis, Marvin Kerkhoff, Mark Dietrich, Jeremy Farlow, Travis Cooley, Robert Reich, Tim Finlay, Jon McCoy, Brad Poulter, David McCleary, John Gunther, Brent Fischer, Joe Zanger, Russ Hinkamper, Timothy Siemer, Keith Callaway and Bret Austin.

Total in favor was 19. Total opposed was 0. Total absent was 2.
The ordinance was approved.

Mr. Cooley made a motion to adjourn the September 9th, 2025 meeting and resume the December 9th, 2025 meeting which was seconded by Mr. Reich.
The motion was approved and the December 9th, 2025 meeting was resumed.

Budget/Insurance

a. FY 2025-2026 Budget / Levy

Mr. Cooley stated they talked about the need of a county administrator or comptroller position.

b. Insurance Updates

Mr. Finlay stated that the county wrapped up open-enrollment for 2026. He stated the current plan is \$556,000 better than the budget.

The committee's next meeting will be Monday, January 12, 2026

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

Approval of Board Member Travel Vouchers

There were no travel vouchers to approve.

Monthly Reports

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review, Juvenile Detention Center, the County Clerk & Recorder's office, the Public Defender, the Circuit Clerk, Information Technology, and Probation Department, Monthly check register for November 2025, and Funds Summary report for November 2025, including revenue and expenses.

Mr. Zanger made a motion to receive and file the monthly reports with the appropriate committee which was seconded by Mr. McCleary.

Motion to receive and file the monthly reports with the appropriate committee adopted.

Report

a. Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) Report (Attachment D-1)

Mr. Zanger moved to receive and file the report with the appropriate committee which was seconded by Mr. McCleary.

Motion to receive and file the report with the appropriate committee adopted.

Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Austin stated he supports the idea of the administrator department. He stated that they need to talk about this in the next year.

Mr. Russ Hinkamper asked if we have a board member on a committee about housing to address the homelessness. He wants to know what they can do. Mr. Austin stated that the City of Quincy has a Human Rights commission. He stated we do not have a designated county board member because it is a City commission. He stated he would ask about it.

Correspondence

There were no correspondence.

The December 9th, 2025 meeting was recessed until Tuesday, January 13, 2026

RESOLUTION 2025-12-501-029

Special Use Permit for a Commercial Solar Energy Facility

WHEREAS, the Transportation, Building and Technology Committee ("Committee") held a public hearing related to the Special Use Permit Application of Gem City Solar, LLC, 23955 Novi Road, Novi, MI on October 22, 2025, at 6:00 pm;

WHEREAS, the Committee heard evidence regarding the Application and made Findings of Fact, attached hereto as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the Committee finds that the Applicant has materially complied with the requirements of the Commercial Solar Energy Facilities Ordinance of Adams County;

WHEREAS, the Committee now recommends siting approval of the Gem City Solar, LLC project for the construction of a 175.0 MWAC commercial solar energy facility occupying approximately 860 acres of a total of 1,190 acres of 24 parcels of land in Burton Township;

WHEREAS, the Adams County Board has reviewed the Findings of Fact and recommended Special Use Permit Conditions, attached hereto and adopts said written Findings of Fact and recommended Special Use Permit Conditions as part of its Special Use Permit; and,

WHEREAS, the Applicant must submit to the County a request for a building permit prior to the construction of said Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Adams County Board that the Findings of Fact and Special Use Permit Conditions are well founded and adopted hereto, and that a Special Use Permit be granted to Gem City Solar, LLC, of Novi, MI subject to the conditions and continued compliance with State statutes and the County's Commercial Solar Energy Facilities Ordinance.

PRESENTED, APPROVED, and RESOLVED by the County Board of Adams County, Illinois on this 9 day of December, 2025.

AYES: 10
NAYS: 3
PRESENT: -
ABSENT: 2

Attest

[Redacted Signature]
Chairman, Adams County Board

[Redacted Signature]
Adams County Clerk



RESOLUTION 2025-12-501-030

By The Adams County Transportation, Building & Technology Committee

TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY BOARD

Ladies and Gentlemen:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of Adams County, Illinois, that the bridge carrying East 2200th Street over Bigneck Creek is in need of replacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this project to replace SN 001-3186 will be known as Houston Road District Section 25-11120-00-BR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Adams County Highway Department has selected Klingner and Associates, P.C. of Quincy Illinois, to provide professional services for the design engineering for the replacement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that there is hereby appropriated the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars, (\$60,000.00) from the Township Bridge Program Fund to pay for the professional services for this replacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chairman be and is hereby authorized to sign the professional services agreement with Klingner and Associates, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

Adams County Transportation, Building &
Technology Committee

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-12-401-001

RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE AND AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEYS APPELLATE PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor was created to provide services to State's Attorneys in Counties containing less than 3,000,000 inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor are defined and enumerated in the "State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Act", 725 ILCS 210/1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly appropriates monies for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, one-third from the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's County Fund and two-thirds from the General Revenue Fund, provided that such funding receives approval and support from the respective Counties eligible to apply; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor shall administer the operation of the appellate offices so as to insure that all participating State's Attorneys continue to have final authority in preparation, filing, and arguing of all appellate briefs and any trial assistance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Adams County Board, in regular session, this 9th day of DECEMBER 2025, does hereby support the continued operation of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, and designates the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor as its Agent to administer the operation of the appellate offices and process said appellate court cases for this County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attorneys employed by the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor are hereby authorized to act as Assistant State's Attorneys on behalf of the State's Attorney of this County in the appeal of all cases when requested to do so by the State's Attorney, and with the advice and consent of the State's Attorney, prepare, file, and argue appellate briefs for those cases; and also, as may be requested by the State's Attorney, to assist in the prosecution of cases under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, the Cannabis Control Act, the Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act, and the Narcotics Profit Forfeiture Act. Such attorneys are further authorized to assist the State's Attorney in the trial and appeal of tax objections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor will offer Continuing Legal Education training programs to the State's Attorneys and Assistant State's Attorneys.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attorneys employed by the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor may also assist the State's Attorney of this County in the discharge of the State's Attorney's duties in the prosecution and trial of other cases, and may act as Special Prosecutor if duly appointed to do so by a court having jurisdiction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor is duly appointed to act as a Special Prosecutor in this County by a court having jurisdiction, this County will provide reasonable and necessary clerical and administrative support and victim-witness coordination on an as-needed basis and will also cover all reasonable and necessary case expenses such as expert witness fees, transcripts, evidence presentation, documents, lodgings, and all other expenses directly related to the prosecution of the case.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adams County Board hereby agrees to participate in the service program of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, commencing December 1, 2025 and ending November 30, 2026, by hereby appropriating the sum of \$31,000 as consideration for the express purpose of providing a portion of the funds required for financing the operation of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, and agrees to deliver the same to the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor on request during the stated twelve month period.

Passed and adopted by the County Board of Adams County, Illinois, this 9th day of December 2025.

ATTEST:

[Redacted signature]

Ryan A. Niekamp, County Clerk



[Redacted signature]

Bret Austin, Board Chairman

ORDINANCE #2025-12-161-001

**RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE #2025-12-161-001
TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE
SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF ADAMS)

Resolved, that the Supervisor of Assessments' annual salary be increased to \$98,940.00 effective December 1, 2025.

Passed this 9th day of December 2025 by the Adams County Board.

[Redacted Signature]

Bret Austin, Chairman

ATTEST:

[Redacted Attestation]





ORDINANCE NO. 2025-12-001-002

ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE
ADAMS COUNTY TAX LEVY FOR THE 2025 TAX YEAR

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss.
County of Adams)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of Adams County, Illinois, that there shall levy in the attached amounts for the 2025 Tax Year for funding of the Adams County, Illinois Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget, which was adopted Ordinance Number 2025-11-001-031 on November 12, 2025.

Attached: Exhibit A – Adams County Tax Levy for the Tax Year 2025

Passed by the Board of Adams County this 9th day of December, 2025.

[Redacted signature]
[Redacted signature]
[Redacted signature]

COUNTY CLERK



[Redacted signature]
[Redacted signature]

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

COUNTY OF ADAMS
Adams County Board
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
TAX YEAR 2025

Exhibit A - Adams County Tax Levy for the Tax Year 2025

Printed 12/5/2025 11:04 AM

LEVY WORKSHEET

Rate Setting EAV (Total+Overlap)											
Current Tax Year:		1,752,511,429									
Upcoming Tax Year (Projected Percentage Increase):		7.20%		1,878,692,252		1,878,692,252		1,752,511,429			
OLD FUND #	FUND	LEVY REQUEST						CURRENT TAX YEAR			
		ORIGINAL 25-26	FINAL 25-26	MAXIMUM RATE	MAXIMUM REQUEST	CALCULATED RATE	ESTIMATED TAX PER \$100,000 FCV (\$33,333 EAV)	LEVY REQUEST	CALCULATED RATE	ESTIMATED TAX PER \$100,000 FCV (\$33,333 EAV)	
001	001 - COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000.00	0.27000	\$ 5,072,469.08	0.26615	89	\$ 4,700,000.00	0.26819	89	
047	011 - SOCIAL SECURITY	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00			0.09049	30	\$ 1,700,000.00	0.09700	32	
005	012 - ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00			0.0213	7	\$ 400,000.00	0.02282	8	
035	021 - LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 900,000.00			0.04791	16	\$ 900,000.00	0.05135	17	
006	501 - COUNTY HIGHWAY	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00	0.10000	\$ 1,878,692.25	0.0692	23	\$ 1,300,000.00	0.07418	25	
008	502 - COUNTY BRIDGE	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	0.05000	\$ 939,346.13	0.01331	4	\$ 250,000.00	0.01427	5	
021	503 - MATCHING TAX	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	0.05000	\$ 939,346.13	0.03726	12	\$ 700,000.00	0.03994	13	
022	601 - COUNTY HEALTH	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	0.10000	\$ 1,878,692.25	0.03726	12	\$ 400,000.00	0.02282	8	
020	611 - TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT BOARD	\$ 72,800.00	\$ 72,800.00	0.07500	\$ 1,409,019.19	0.00388	1	\$ 72,800.00	0.00415	1	
064	621 - AMBULANCE SERVICE	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00	0.25000	\$ 4,696,730.63	0.0692	23	\$ 1,300,000.00	0.07418	25	
053	701 - COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 135,000.00	0.05000	\$ 939,346.13	0.00719	2	\$ 135,000.00	0.00770	3	
106	702 - DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	0.10000	\$ 1,878,692.25	0.03194	11	\$ 600,000.00	0.03424	11	
	990 - VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	0.04000	\$ 751,476.90	0.01863	6	\$ 350,000.00	0.01997	7	
003	801 - BOND REPAYMENT			0.05000	\$ 939,346.13						
003A	802 - JAIL BOND REPAYMENT			0.10000	\$ 1,878,692.25						
TOTAL:		12,807,800	13,407,800	104.6846%		0.71372	238	\$ 12,807,800	0.73081	244	
REMAINING (5% Increase):			\$ 40,390								

[https://adamsco-il-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mniekamp_adamscountyil_gov/Documents/County Board/Budget/FY25-26 Budget/2025-2026 Levy \(Tax Year 2025\) F 112425 12.05.2025](https://adamsco-il-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mniekamp_adamscountyil_gov/Documents/County Board/Budget/FY25-26 Budget/2025-2026 Levy (Tax Year 2025) F 112425 12.05.2025)

2025 Adams County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report

JOHN ALBRIGHT, CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE AND INNOVATION
TIFFANY GHOLSON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF
PROGRAMS

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Executive Summary

The Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) conducted an annual inspection of the Adams County Juvenile Detention Center on September 11, 2025, pursuant to 730 ILCS 5/3-15-2(b). The sections and specific requirements of 20 Ill. Adm. Code 2602, County Juvenile Detention Standards, (“County Detention Standards”) noted as non-compliant are listed in the table below, while specific observations are noted in the sections that follow. Each section of the report also includes policy and practice recommendations to either gain compliance or move towards best practices. Those are combined in a second table at the end of the report.

Areas of Non-Compliance

Section	Requirement
2602.170 Discipline	Room confinement may be used only as a temporary response to behavior that threatens the safety of the youth and others. Room confinement shall not be used for a fixed period of time, but only until the youth is calm enough to rejoin programming without being a risk to the safety of others. At no time should room confinement exceed 4 hours without administrators and/or mental health staff developing an individualized plan to address the behavior.
2602.30 Personnel	A shift supervisor must be scheduled and available at all times and on duty during all waking hours and immediately available if not on duty during sleeping hours.
2602.50 Admissions Procedures	An agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all of its facilities.
2602.90 Mental Health Services	All facilities shall employ or contract with qualified mental health professionals to address the needs of youth identified in the mental health screening, as well as needs that arise during the period of confinement. Services shall meet or exceed the community level of care.
2602.230 Education	Each facility must designate a qualified educational authority responsible for the development and implementation of the educational program. The educational authority must ensure that: The program complies with State and federal education standards. . . Teacher student ratios are at least 1:12 for general education and 1:8 for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

Methodology

- Interviews Conducted
 - Superintendent
 - Director
 - Detention Officers (2)
 - Detention Officer Supervisors (2)

- Youth (5)
- Health Department Nurse
- Educator
- Mental Health Professionals (2)
- Documents Reviewed
 - Sample Youth Files
 - Medication Logs
 - Youth Confinement Records
 - Resident Orientation Handbook
 - Behavior Management Program Training Manual
 - Public Health Inspection Report (6/10/24)
 - Dietary Menu with Caloric Count
 - Educator Credentials
 - Sample Incident Reports
 - Programming, Recreation, and Education Schedules
 - Residence Grievance Log
 - Sample Youth Grievances
 - Sample Administrative Intervention (AI) Plan

Overview

The Adams County Juvenile Detention Center is a 32-bed facility in Quincy, Illinois. The primary programming space is a multi-purpose area outside of the main control room. The facility has three classrooms, a gymnasium, and an outdoor recreation space. There are three living units, referred to as Blue Unit, Red Unit, and Green Unit, however only two of the living units were in use at the time of the inspection due to the low population numbers at the facility.

The on-site portion of the review took place on September 11, 2025. At the time of the audit, the facility had 11 residents, employing two supervisors and 15 Detention Officers (one of which was away on military leave). Efforts are being made to hire additional supervisors, as the current staffing is insufficient to cover all waking hour shifts in each week. There are shifts during the week where a supervisor is not present. In these instances, the most senior Detention Officer is in charge of the shift. County Detention Standards require that a shift supervisor be scheduled and available during all youth waking hours. Youth, staff, and administrators also report youth confinements being utilized due to short staffing approximately 2-3 times per week. This does represent an improvement from previous inspections where confinements were utilized almost daily due to staffing shortages. Facility administrators report the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) has authorized six additional positions starting on January 1, 2026, including four Detention Officers, a Training Coordinator, and a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator. The addition of these positions will be critical for continued staffing improvements at the facility.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.30 Personnel states: “A shift supervisor must be scheduled and available at all times and on duty during all waking hours and immediately available if not on duty during sleeping hours.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Budget for and hire more supervisory staff to ensure adequate coverage is maintained.

Admission Policy and Procedures

The Adams County Juvenile Detention Center offers 24-hour coverage for admissions. The facility has ended the practice of conducting strip searches upon intake; only using such searches in the event there is suspicion that the youth is in possession of contraband.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requirements include an assessment to determine risk for victimization within 72 hours of each youth’s admission and periodically throughout a youth’s confinement. Inspection reports from 2022 – 2024 found the facility had not implemented such a process. The facility did start to do so in early 2025. All youth files that were reviewed contained such an assessment, so this area is considered compliant at this time. Interviewed youth were familiar with PREA, some of whom indicated they learned about it via an orientation video upon arrival. The facility has not had a formal PREA audit conducted.

Areas of Non-compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.50 Admissions Procedures states: “An agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all of its facilities.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Hire a PREA Officer to supervise facility compliance with PREA standards.
 - Pursue a formal PREA audit.

Detention Programs, Youth Discipline, and Confinement

In 2019, the facility took steps to implement a cognitive-based programming model with the assistance of external consultants. The program includes a token economy system in which youth earn points throughout the day that are converted into a three-tiered level system with graduating incentives. The facility also utilizes immediate reinforcements to recognize youth for positive behavior. Youth can use these “tokens” to make purchases from the commissary system, which mostly contains snacks and hygiene products. Detention officers facilitate daily cognitive-behavioral focus groups which have been held with much more consistency than previous inspections. Interviewed youth affirmed these groups occur daily and completed programming materials were observed in youth files.

The facility utilizes a timeout system to address inappropriate behavior, with timeouts ranging from 5-15 minutes on average. Youth who exhibit egregious behaviors are assigned an Administrative Intervention (AI) Plan and separated from the main group during the plan (although youth do continue to attend school with other youth). There have been improvements to the AI Plan process over time, as the length

of time youth are on the plan has decreased quite a bit. Youth and staff report youth typically stay on that status for 2-3 days. There is still operationally driven confinement happening at the facility 2-3 times per week.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.170 Discipline states: “Room confinement may be used only as a temporary response to behavior that threatens the safety of the youth and others. Room confinement shall not be used for a fixed period of time, but only until the youth is calm enough to rejoin programming without being a risk to the safety of others. At no time should room confinement exceed 4 hours without administrators and/or mental health staff developing an individualized plan to address the behavior.”
 - Recommendations:
 - Continue efforts to hire enough staff to avoid the use of operational confinements.

Medical and Health Care

An Adams County Health Department nurse is on-site on most weekdays (an increase from only twice per week in 2024). The nurse conducts medical assessments for youth intakes, packages youth medication for administration by detention center employees, and responds to any sick calls. A Nurse Practitioner is on call 24- hours per day. The youth medication distribution process and documentation were clear and organized.

Mental Health Services

Mental health services are offered through both Transitions of Western Illinois as part of the MHJJ grant program and Clarity Healthcare. Transitions staff include a case manager who meets with youth on the MHJJ caseload and a licensed therapist who provides individual treatment. In previous inspections, two non-clinical, peer support employees from Transitions were on-site at the facility once per week for approximately 3-4 hours to meet with youth on the MHJJ caseload and check-in with others on request. The facility did not have any licensed Mental Health Professionals (MHPs) providing services to youth at the time of previous inspections. There is an MHP through Transitions providing individual services for youth referred by the MHJJ case manager. Additionally, Clarity Healthcare staff provides 10 hours of services per week, including weekly groups that follow the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Anger Management Curriculum. Clarity also provides substance abuse counseling in the community. Two youth were being transported for appointments at the time of the inspection. The MOU with Clarity was effective in late July, 2025.

The breadth of mental health services available to youth is an improvement on previous inspections. Health Services have only been in place for a short period of time, so portions of this section are still identified as non-compliant since they have not been in place for much of the review period. If improvements are maintained, however, the facility will move into compliance in this area during the next inspection.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.90 Mental Health Services states: “All facilities shall employ or contract with qualified mental health professionals to address the needs of youth identified in the mental health screening, as well as needs that arise during the period of confinement. Services shall meet or exceed the community level of care.”
 - Recommendations
 - Ensure all youth receive a mental health assessment upon admission.
 - Develop individual service plans for youth in need of services.

Youth Grievances

The 2024 Inspection Report found the facility had grievance forms available for youth; however, grievances are not being responded to appropriately. The facility is now maintaining a grievance log detailing grievance date, response, and response date. Interviewed youth were all familiar with the grievance process and affirmed administrators meet with them to address grievances. The facility is now compliant in this area.

Education

The facility has one full-time teacher that is an employee of Quincy Public School District #172 and an education liaison who manages youth enrollment. The school calendar matches the calendar of the Quincy School District, inclusive of summer school. Youth classwork is done almost exclusively through the Ingenuity Credit Recovery System. Youth can also work on schoolwork sent from their home schools.

The 2024 Inspection Report found that special education services continue to be monitored by a special education coordinator at the local high school, however the one educator at the facility is not a licensed special education teacher. This condition had not changed as of the date of the 2025 inspection. To come into compliance with County Detention Standards, the facility will have to hire or contract with a licensed special education teacher to provide services to youth.

The facility continues to be out of compliance with the requirement that the teacher student ratio for general education of youth be 1:12. Given the average number of youth at the facility, one teacher is insufficient to meet this standard. At least one additional teacher will need to be hired in order to move into compliance in this area.

While operationally driven confinements are still occurring at the facility, they are not interfering with the school day. Youth and staff affirmed that most of these occur during the evening shift and that school is occurring regularly as scheduled.

Areas of Non-Compliance and Recommendations

- 2602.230 Education states: “Each facility must designate a qualified educational authority responsible for the development and implementation of the educational program. The educational authority must ensure that: The program complies with State and federal education

standards. . . Teacher student ratios are at least 1:12 for general education and 1:8 for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)”.

- Recommendations:
 - Hire a special education teacher to provide services to youth with IEPs.
 - Hire an additional general education teacher to ensure the facility can maintain required ratios for educational services.

Recommendations

Section	Recommendations
Admissions Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hire a PREA Officer to supervise facility compliance with PREA standards. ● Pursue a formal PREA audit.
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget for and hire more supervisory staff to ensure adequate coverage is maintained.
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue efforts to hire enough staff to avoid the use of operational confinements.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hire a special education teacher to provide services to youth with IEPs. ● Hire an additional general education teacher to ensure the facility can maintain required ratios for educational services.
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure all youth receive a mental health assessment upon admission. ● Develop individual service plans for youth in need of services.



[Redacted signature]

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

[Redacted signature]
[Redacted name]
COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF ADAMS)
STATE OF ILLINOIS)

I, Ryan A. Niekamp, County Clerk in and for said County of Adams, State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing is true and complete copy of the proceedings of the Adams County Board's meeting held on December 9, 2025, as shown by my records in my office.

Witness my hand and official seal at Quincy, Illinois
this 13th day of January 2026.

[Redacted signature]



[Redacted signature]
COUNTY CLERK