

Marion Co. Detention Center Seeks ACA Certification

Last year the American Correctional Association (ACA) approved a list of “Core Jail Standards.” These standards are critical levels of attainment that must be met in order for a jail to be “certified” by the ACA.

On March 19, 2010, the Marion County Detention Center (MCDC) signed a contract with ACA notifying them of their intent to abide by these standards and thus become the first jail in Kentucky to be “ACA Certified.”

Marion County Jailer

Barry Brady said there are a total of 77 full-service jails in Kentucky, and while a few of them have shown an interest in the certification process, MCDC is the only one currently under contract with the ACA to pursue certification.

The complete certification process takes one year to complete. The jail staff must show that they meet or exceed the standards throughout the entire year. At the end of the year, the ACA conducts an audit to verify that all the Core Jail Standards have been met.

“There are three things you don’t ever compromise: staff, staff training and life safety issues.”

Barry Brady

Marion County Jailer



Brady said that since they signed the contract in March, he is hoping to have the audit scheduled and completed in early 2011.

Achieving certification shows that the jailer and his staff are working toward

one common goal.

“We strive to do the right thing so we can reduce our liability issues without sacrificing the needs of the inmates or the professionalism of our staff,” said Brady.



Left: The new Marion County Detention Center, located in Lebanon, Ky., was dedicated in December 2009. Marion County Jailer Barry Brady is the first Kentucky Jailer to seek ACA Certification.