

# Correctional Institution Inspection Committee: Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility Brief

November 23, 2010

## Institution Profile

- Franklin Furnace, Ohio
- Male
- Close security (highest level for DYS)
- 392 youth capacity
- 174 youth on day of inspection
- 350 staff

## Key Statistics

- **Use of Force:** In one month, staff conducted **109** interventions in response to **71** incidents. These interventions required **200** types of approved physical response techniques. **Staff used mechanical restraints 81 times in August.**
- **Injuries Resulting from Use of Force:** From January to July 2010, **102 youth were injured during uses of force.**
- **Seclusion:** The facility reported **193** youth secluded for a total of **6,473** hours during the month of August 2010, or about **33.5** hours on average.
- **Assaults:** From September 2009 through September 2010, there were **283 youth on youth assaults**. In the same time period, **youth assaulted staff 343 times**. Of these assaults on staff, **135 staff required on-site medical care and 38 required outside medical care.**
- **Suicide Attempts:** Only one suicide attempt occurred in 2010. No suicides were completed in 2010.
- **Self-Injurious Behavior:** In the month of August, there were **15** incidents of self-injurious behavior, three of which required outside medical treatment.
- **GEDs Earned:** Last year, **43** youth at ORVJCF earned a GED.

## Key Findings

- Youth repeatedly alleged that staff used force unnecessarily, particularly in areas of the unit not covered by surveillance.
- During the CIIC inspection, a youth assaulted a social worker; the youth relayed that the reason for the assault was that the social worker was using unjustified force on another youth and he wanted it to stop.
- Numerous staff expressed low morale due to fears regarding safety, their jobs, and a reported lack of consistency in administration. Staff said that they purposefully picked jobs that did not involve youth contact because the youth falsely accuse staff.
- Youth relayed that there are numerous STG (gang) related fights in the facility, particularly in the educational facility.
- Several housing units needed renovation, including missing doors, destroyed locks, leaking showers, and unsanitary conditions in the restrooms.
- Multiple youth stated that the grievance procedure "doesn't work." Youth stated that no one checks the grievance drop box on the units and that no one ever contacts them regarding their grievances.
- Despite staff concerns and low morale, staff relayed significant support for each other and a commitment to continue serving youth.
- At the time of the inspection, DYS was still in the process of rolling out a new behavioral management system that uses positive reinforcement, such as praise and coupons for good behavior, that is expected to improve staff/youth relations.