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126TH OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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BIENNIAL REPORT

TO THE

127th OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY INSPECTION FINDINGS

January 12, 2007

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**CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE
BIENNIAL REPORT:**

JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES INSPECTION FINDINGS

The purpose of this report is to specifically address the statutory requirement in Section 103.79:

If the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee conducts inspections of youth services facilities during the biennium, the Committee shall prepare a report for submission to the succeeding General Assembly of the findings the Committee makes in its inspections and of any programs that have been proposed or developed to improve the condition or operation of youth services facilities. The committee shall submit the report to the succeeding General Assembly within fifteen days after commencement of that general assembly's first regular session.

The following Biennial Report provides excerpts from far more detailed, comprehensive reports on the inspections and/or on-site visits at each of the eight Department of Youth Services Facilities plus the privately owned and operated Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek, which accepts DYS commitments. The report summaries contain portions of the full reports, which could be considered either "findings" or recommendations for improvements. They are presented in alphabetical order as follows:

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility
Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek
Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility
Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility
Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

CIRCLEVILLE JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Inspection Date: August 25, 2005
CIIC Staff

Summary

The inspection of the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility was positive and produced a relatively significant amount of commentary from the youth about institutional life. Generally, youth seemed unafraid to openly communicate with CIIC staff.

Single stand-out components of the overall operation, many of which were described as “Points of Pride” during the inspection, include the implementation of a kite system for youth to write and report their problems and concerns, the high praise that youth offered regarding the staff demeanor toward youth and the effectiveness of the programming that was available to them at the Circleville facility, the implementation of video conferencing to expand and enhance family visits and conferences, the quality of instruction and curriculum offered among academic programming, expansion of meal options to add more notably healthy items, the large number of community service hours that youth provide per year, a more fully developed sex offender curriculum that includes victim awareness programming, and a unit management model that brings increased activity and quality of life into the hours that youth spend on unit and reduces the hours that youth are permitted to be inside their rooms.

Facility Profile and Overview

The facility administration is making an effort to eliminate double bunking of offenders by maintaining the youth population at or below capacity. Youth are assigned to a housing unit based upon age, emotional and social maturity, and cognitive defects. A Youth Behavior Management Privilege System allows for youth to progress to upper levels in their classification and apply for additional visitation privileges and telephone privileges.

In addition, the facility has recorded progressively larger numbers of high school graduates over recent year with statistics showing 16 graduates in 2003, 28 graduates in 2004, and 42 graduates in 2005, (b) achievement by two youth of composite scores of 30 on the ACT test, and (c) achievement of ACT scores in the middle to upper 20s by several youth.

Also, community service participation is designed so that youth realize some sense of restorative justice and service commitment to a local community. Reportedly, youth committed to the Circleville facility completed community service hours totaling 43,611 in 2003, 66,850 in 2004, and 79,152 in 2005. Community service projects reportedly included providing educational aids to inner city schools and other miscellaneous services to support Crayons to Computers, First Night Columbus, Children’s Hospital, and Riser Nursing Home.

Programs

There are several programs offered at CJCF that are intentionally designed to better prepare the student for employment after commitment. Examples of such programs are the Graduate Work Program (GWP), Career-Based Intervention (CBI), forthcoming expansion of sex-offender programming, a horticulture program, and implementation of a method of instruction known as the Correctional Life Long Learning or CELL program.

The Graduate Work Program (GWP) allows youth who have graduated from the school to work in paid positions in the facility's operations. Youth in the Career-Based Intervention (CBI) program are not school graduates, yet they are still allowed to work within the confines of the facility. The horticulture program is available to youth who are part of the Graduate Work Program and are therefore permitted to work in the yard to provide complete landscaping of yard and grounds. The forthcoming expanded sex offender program will include instruction in (a) Life Skills/Independent Living, (b) Substance Abuse Education and Awareness, and (c) Parent Education. Also, new to the sex offender programming is Correctional Life Long Learning or CELL, which is geared for high-needs offenders. CELL, which is theory and research-based instruction, offers more concentration over a shorter period of time compared to the old program. The most important part of the CELL program is relapse prevention. CELL is both cognitive and behavior oriented.

Community Service and Community/Business Partnerships

Included under the community service component at the Circleville facility is the Community Advisory Board, which exists to cultivate and perpetuate connections between the facility and the local community. The Board is comprised of three educational professionals, one law enforcement representative, one clergyman, three community representatives, one County Commissioner, one juvenile court representative, and two community at-large representatives (one of which is a government representative).

Staff Profile, Training, and Issues

The Circleville facility has experienced some staff reduction, losing 14 (approximately 6%) staff through 2004. No specific explanations were offered during the on-site visit for the reduction in staff; however, the reduction in the facility's youth population and budget reductions are two factors that create an impact on staffing levels.

There is an effort to address prevailing attitudes among staff wherever applicable so that the culture within the facility is more rehabilitative than punitive toward youth. Values and culture within the institution are more important than training in regard to the response that the correctional officers make to youth.

It is believed that the current administrative strategy of removing staff that continue in unacceptable practices with youth, rather than perpetuate intervention-based management, helps to create a positive cultural change for the facility.

Youth Population

The average age of youth residents at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility is 17.5 years. Youth population has declined since the fall of 2004 from nearly 230 residents to under 200 residents in the spring of 2005. A population goal has been established at 144, which was projected to be reached by October 2005 and would allow for single bunking for all juvenile offenders at the facility.

Youth Classification

Youth classification is established around the youth's assigned housing unit. Youth are classified for unit placement based on their age and their need for specialized services. Ash Unit houses the mental health and special needs population – those individuals whose mental health presentation warrants separation from the general population and other youth who exhibit severe social skills and/or cognitive skill deficits requiring a highly structured and specialized environment.

As of November 15, 2005, the cultural distribution at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Institution was white at 93 or 63.7%, black at 46 or 31.5%, Hispanic at 6, and Asian at 1, for a total youth population of 146.

Mental Health Caseload

As of January 3, 2006, Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility had 70 youth on the mental health caseload.

Concerns and Contacts Reported to CIIC

For the period from January 1, 2005 through February 27, 2006, there were 178 concerns system-wide (from all DYS youth facilities) reported to CIIC. Of the 178 concerns, 28 or 15.7% of those concerns came from Circleville youth, parents, or staff. The 28 concerns from Circleville rank the facility second in the number of concerns reported for the period.

Of the previously cited 28 concerns, there were 25 concerns that were reported from the Circleville facility during the period January 1, 2005 through January 23, 2006. The following table displays the distribution of those 25 concerns by type.

**Table: Concerns by Category Reported to CIIC
January 1, 2005 to January 23, 2006**

Type/Category of Concern	Number of Reports
Health Care The specific complaints comprising the 5 reports include a. access or delay in receiving medical care – 3 b. delay or denial of medication – 2 c. improper or inadequate medical care – 2 d. eye glasses - 1	5
Force Supervision The specific complaints comprising the 4 reports include a. harassment – 3 b. other – 2 c. privacy violation – 1	4
Staff Accountability The specific complaints comprising the 3 reports include a. failure to follow policies – 2 b. failure to perform job duties – 2	3
Psychological/Psychiatrist The specific complaints comprising the 2 reports include a. psychiatric medication - 1 b. other -1	2
Safety and Sanitation Dirty living quarters/work areas – 1	1
Food Service Food portions – 1	1
Housing Assignment Unit assignment – 1	1
Inmate Grievance Procedure Other – 1	1
<u>Non-Grievable Matters</u> Other – 1	1

Grievance Summary for July 2005

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility maintains records monthly to show each grievance that is filed within the facility. This information was provided to CIIC for the month of July 2005 as a representative month of grievances. Of the 32 total grievances that were filed during July 2005, there were 23 grievances or nearly 73% shown as resolved by August 12, 2005.

Superintendent Concerns and Issues

There were five concerns relayed to CIIC during the entrance conference. First, support from the Department of Youth Services Central Office is sought for capital projects. Second, a conscientious commitment is needed to assure the safety, health, and transformation of youth. Third, fourth, and fifth, it was acknowledged that while the perception is that the facility has a very good union relationship, some staff perpetuate an attitude and a management style toward youth that tends to deter the desired cultural changes.

Youth Discipline and Management

There are three categories within which youth are classified: Phase I, II, or III. Within each of these categories (levels), there are specific privileges allowable and accessible. Youth are expected to receive 'basic' privileges through completion of programming, and in addition, youth may earn additional and/or exceptional privileges as progression is made in programming, behavior, school, recreational participation, etc. The additional and exceptional privileges are intended to serve as incentives.

It was noted during the onsite visit that specific responses or sanctioned response 'tools' should be available to staff for use in a progressive manner to administer discipline in situations where youth are acting outside acceptable behavioral norms. Acceptable staff responses may include 'use of force' options, but should not include any actions that constitute 'abuse.'

Medical Services

The contracted medical physician reportedly meets with youth twice per week and is scheduled for an eight-hour day, but stays as long as needed to see all youth who have made appointments.

The nurse to youth ratio is one nurse to 24 boys. There are reportedly no contract nurses employed at the Circleville facility. Nurses are scheduled for sick calls two to three days per week and one to two evenings per week. There is nurse coverage and pill distribution throughout the weekend as well, plus coverage for emergency situations as needed. Pill call takes place in the cafeteria.

Youth are summoned to the medical services unit according to individual schedules, so that medical appointments are kept with respect to assigned programming and youth are not pulled from a class or other required instruction.

Youth Medications

Pill call was observed at the on-site visit in the cafeteria. The morning pill call is reportedly the busiest one, with 60 to 70 youth receiving medications at that time. The noon distribution is the lightest time. In the evening, a nurse visits each housing unit and distributes medications.

Mental Health Services

One psychiatrist reportedly meets with youth by appointment every Wednesday and on alternate Thursdays. As with medical appointments, mental health appointments are scheduled so as to avoid pulling youth out of school classes or away from their programming. At the time of the on-site visit, there were 61 youth on the mental health caseload. Of those youth, 50 of them came to the Circleville facility already on

medications and 11 youth were placed on medications after being committed to Circleville. The facility reports that there have been periods of time when 90% of the youth population has been on psychotropic medications.

The most significant diagnosis at CJCF is Conduct Disorder, which does not always require mental health intervention, yet demands focused attention. Reportedly, mental health services are comprised primarily of individual psychotherapy, group therapy, crisis intervention, assessments, and consultation with staff and other professionals.

Tracking Youth Movement

One aspect of campus security is maintained through the use of a “line of sight” system, whereby individual or small groups of youth who are enroute between buildings located on the campus, are continuously observed. It was noted during the on-site visit, that youth did not predominantly walk with their hands behind their backs, as was the practice in the past in the youth facilities. It was relayed that some youth retain the practice, although it is not a requirement between buildings.

Essentially, staff at the departure building radios staff at the receiving building as each youth walks between the buildings and both staff visually ‘track’ the youth as he walks, thus, eliminating the need for staff to actually walk with each youth as they are in transit. Upon arrival, the staff in the receiving building radios back that the youth has arrived.

Housing Units

The six housing units at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility are located in three buildings (two units per building), with all units having the same architectural design. Basketball courts separate the three buildings. Buildings are relatively new and are clean and well maintained. The south side of the compound contains two basketball courts, soccer goals, and a baseball diamond.

Room assignments take into consideration the recommendations from the initial Sexual Assault and Victimization Assessment that is given at reception, a review of the youth’s file and an interview with the youth. Room changes within a unit are subject to an assessment prior to the room being changed. If a youth moves to another unit based on age, the room assignment procedure is again followed to ensure the safety of the youth and his peers on the unit.

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility operates under a unit management system that fosters teamwork and encourages staff to create programs to deal with the problems exhibited by their populations and to collaborate in solving problems. The use of a unit plan is consistent among all the units, yet allows for variations that make the plan functional for each unit. One of the key components to the unit plans is the coordination of details pertaining to youth programming among all of the other units. Simply, unit schedules must be compatible so that there are no conflicts or omissions in the delivery of services or programming to youth. Units are operated such that youth are not permitted

to be in their rooms unless by permission or during night sleep hours. Otherwise, youth must remain in their pods when they are not attending programming.

The area between pods is used for team meetings and additional staff offices. A wall-mounted telephone and a locked grievance box were available for youth use in the central area. Specific to Walnut Unit, there is “Wall of Fame” on which notices, certificates, and diplomas representing youth accomplishments and successes are posted.

At the on-site visit, the CIIC memorandum was not observed, but staff assured CIIC staff that it would be posted. Likewise, there was no evidence of the DYS attorney name being posted for youth to access legal assistance.

Youth rooms contain the bed, a room chart to show how the room should be organized, a speaker and light switch, and an open wall-mounted cabinet with two shelves to store youth personal items. The mattresses were clean, although showing first signs of cracks in the vinyl.

The bathrooms overall appeared to be clean. Unit staff spray or apply the cleaners and youth only attend to the wiping and scrubbing of the bathrooms.

Unit staff indicated that there are occasionally minor youth-on-youth assaults, but those assaults were not usually gang-related because youth gang presence is not a key issue at the Circleville facility.

Staff relayed that the sexual behavior at Circleville has been consistently and relatively minimal, and that the newspapers have blown it out of proportion.

Elm Unit is designed to accommodate handicapped youth with a ramp and also with restrooms that are wheelchair accessible. One Unit Administrator relayed that the noise level is high and stressful, producing much echo and poor acoustics. A second issue that was mentioned was the lack of staff accommodations on the unit.

Ash Unit is designed for youth with special needs and mental health issues, including those with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. Approximately 75% of youth in Ash Unit are reportedly on some form of medication. Common for youth assigned to Ash Unit is the design and development of a Treatment Plan, which is rendered by a Treatment Team. A min-treatment plan, acting as a sub-plan to the overarching treatment plan, may be formed by the social worker. Youth in Ash Unit have an individual Case Manager.

Staff in Ash Unit relayed that their greatest need is for additional funding to supply more programs and activities that are developmentally appropriate for this group of youth in their care and under their supervision.

Cafeteria/Dining Hall/Kitchen

The central cafeteria appeared to be much like other cafeterias in other youth facilities and youth workers fill certain jobs in both the cafeteria and in the kitchen. There are two types of youth kitchen workers: youth in a Career-Based Intervention (CBI) program and those who are engaged in a Graduate Work Program (GWP). Youth in the CBI program work as well as go to school and those in the GWP have already completed school, so they work extended hours. However, some Circleville staff relayed that they were not comfortable with allowing sex offenders to work in food services. Noted during the visit, were the acoustics within the cafeteria, which made it difficult to carry on a conversation without raising one's voice and in that regard, creating a stressful environment for communicating during the mealtime.

Educational Services

The Ralph C. Starkey High School at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility is a fully accredited charter high school providing educational services under the Ohio Board of Education. Completed class credits may be transferred to a public school when a youth is released. Some middle school classrooms offer courses at middle school level. The General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is also offered to youth. The current reported GED pass rate averages 90% of the youth who complete the program and take the test.

The interior of the school complex was light and bright. A focal point at the entrance hallway was a large bulletin board used to draw recognition to graduates and to the Honor Guard, special events in the school calendar, and also to enumerate the school rules.

Academic highlights observed during the onsite visit include segments of instruction in the following classrooms:

- History/Social Studies – A study about a space station through a Discovery channel video that coordinated with material in a textbook.
- Economics – The economics class was engaged in a project of comparing the costs of racecar (NASCAR) competition with and without a sponsor. The study of the economics of a business venture seemed to offer notable and positive academic value to the youth, who appeared engaged in the subject.
- Special Education Classroom – special education instruction is usually delivered on a one-to-one teacher to student ratio. There are 83 youth with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as required under federal law.
- Administrative Office Technology (AOT) – The MS Office Certification program is considered a vocational program, but is taught by a certified Microsoft Master Instructor within the academic building at the youth facility.
- General Math – The general math class was engaged in a stock market project that entailed purchasing exercises and a student competition to earn the greatest return on hypothetical investments. Youth appeared to be motivated and keenly

interested in this segment of the curriculum. The curriculum included tasks such as buying, trading, or selling stocks, recording gains and losses, considering the 52-week highs and lows of stock values, and forming individual strategies for handling their stock portfolios.

- Biology – Teacher-prepared packets complement the instruction of topics. The biology teacher coordinates an annual fall Science Fair, with 20 projects from which to choose.
- Art – The art classroom displayed numerous student renderings and projects. One of the art students had applied for admission to The Ohio State University. Youth maintain their collective pieces in a portfolio, typical of art students in any high school art program.

The records and attendance office was described to CIIC staff as being the best in the state juvenile system because all youth attendance is carefully monitored and if a youth does not show up for an assigned class, staff will locate the youth and ‘bring’ him to class. There are very few excuses that are accepted for not attending an assigned class. A “Daily Skippers” report is maintained each day. As an incentive, units that go 80 days without “skippers” are given a party at the end of the year.

Youth Communication

A relatively large volume of youth communication took place during the onsite visit. The most frequently mentioned comments fell in the category of staff-youth communication or interaction. The vast majority of those comments were positive and complimentary regarding the manner of communication between staff and youth. The second most frequently mentioned category was education and programming. Again, the majority of these comments were positive. However, youth relayed a desire for music programs and an increase in the vocational tracks, particularly an automotive track. Youth reported that they like having their own rooms and that they are kept busy, only being in their rooms when they are asleep or when a treatment team is working with other youth on the unit on Wednesdays. Of the negative comments, one youth mentioned that staff on second shift are not as skilled in working with youth and tend to create chaos. Also, a youth reported that medical services are poor on the weekends.

Staff Comments

Highlights of staff comments include that many staff believe there is a sincere effort to change kids’ lives at the Circleville facility. One staff challenge frequently relayed was finding time to do all that could be done through youth programs and to engage in meaningful communication with the youth. Some staff relayed that the greatest challenge is dealing with the behaviors of special needs youth, especially those youth who are taking prescription medications. Unit staff relayed that there are no true gang problems at the Circleville facility, and also that the key component to managing youth sexual behaviors is maintaining single-bunking arrangements.

CUYAHOGA HILLS JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**Inspection Date: August 30, 2005****CIIC Member: Representative Michael DeBose****CIIC Staff****Summary**

The time and effort of Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility staff involved in the inspection and preparation were very much appreciated. There was an obvious care and attention to the staff and youth in the facility reflected in the observations of operations, conditions and programs. In follow-up communication from one facility staff person, it was relayed that staff all worked hard to prepare for the inspection, and welcomed the opportunity to “show off” the good things that they do for the youth. Positives were definitely evident.

Some have referred to Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility as “the most improved facility” in recent years in the Department of Youth Services. The facility was clean, the employees were professional, and the interaction with youth and staff reflected a positive atmosphere and environment. The most impressive aspect of the facility is Idleness Control, using a unique method to maximize structure and supervision, which is fundamental to safety and security needs of the youth and staff.

Staff

Based on the discussion on site, 229 staff including contract workers were currently employed at the facility. On the day of the inspection, there were 18 vacancies: three juvenile correctional officers, one laundry position, food services, three or four teachers, and recreation staff. Staff relayed that the institution must maintain a 4.5 percent vacancy rate to live within its budget. If they were able to fill all of their positions, their staff would total 274. It was noted that their turnover tends to be higher due to the urban workforce.

Security

Staff relayed that the facility has also put in place a video surveillance system that has been effective in identifying key problem areas in the facility. System expansion is expected in the future.

According to staff, in comparison with the other juvenile correctional facilities, Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility has a low level of gang activity. Staff relayed that efforts are made to stem any gang activity, including the use of a Security Threat Group Committee composed of staff that monitor gang activity.

Incidents

Monthly data was provided from a Significant Incident Summary from January through July 2005. Regarding Offender/Offender Assaults, there were no such assaults with a weapon. However, there was one assault without a weapon in April and three assaults without a weapon in July. The three July assaults were categorized as "Consent/Sexual and Physical". In 2004 data, there were no offender/offender assaults with a weapon. However, there were 11 assaults without a weapon in 2004, with none in five months, one each in four months, two each in two months, and three in one month in the year.

In the Offender/Staff Assault category, there was no assault with a weapon from January through July 2005, and in all of 2004. However, there was one such assault without a weapon in January 2005. Further, there were two offender/staff assaults without a weapon in 2004. Both occurred in March 2004.

There was no Forced Move Used from January through July 2005. However, Forced Moves in 2004 totaled 339, an average of 28 per month, ranging from the low of seven in September to a high of 51 in January 2004. In follow-up communication from DYS staff regarding the possible errors in reporting or major changes in practices, it was relayed that the drastic change is due to a cross in definitions. Reportedly, the ACA defines "Forced Moves" as cell extractions, while facility staff relayed that their "AMS" defines "Forced Moves" as "anytime a staff member touches a youth. This will include: fight break ups, escort techniques, etc." CIIC extracted the data on "Forced Moves Used" from the same form completed by facility staff for the time periods cited above. "AMS" is the Activity Management System, a database system designed to document and track incidents and grievances in the Department of Youth Services, per the definition in Policy 304.03.

According to the staff discussion on site, the complex issues surrounding use of force (also termed response to resistance) are areas of focus throughout the Department of Youth Services. Based on the discussion, through proper training on how to effectively respond to resistance, including unarmed self-defense, and verbal strategies, staff learn to prevent and respond to resistance problems in a better way.

Further, there were no Disturbances (incidents involving four or more youth) in the period, not only January through July 2005, but in all of 2004.

Idleness

At the time of the inspection, the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility was piloting a method of idleness control in effect for a year and a half, consisting of a highly structured schedule that requires youth to be engaged in activity at all times. A Youth Idleness Reduction Team was designed to establish a comprehensive youth activity Master Schedule that includes alternative activities for schedule failures or changes, and to eliminate youth idleness.

As part of the program, youth must vacate all housing areas in the morning and immediately after lunch, and they are not permitted back into the housing areas until the end of the business day. After vacating the housing areas, they are escorted on a “tour” of the facility. As they reach their designated program area, they are dropped off and exit the “tour.” The remaining youth who do not have a program scheduled for the time period, or whose program has been cancelled for the period, are taken to the visiting room where they are reprogrammed into another activity or job assignment for the period. Staff who would otherwise be required to monitor youth activity in the dorm areas are free to monitor the program areas and to provide substitute programming for youth brought into the visiting area.

Staff relayed that the idleness control program has been tremendously effective. Based on material provided on site, idleness reduction has resulted in a major decrease in youth fights, needs and general complaints. Further, a reduction in staff injuries, paperwork, Youth Behavioral Incident Reports (YBIR) and Inter-Disciplinary Council (IDC) processing, and staff disability claims has reportedly resulted. Staff further noted that youth have also been less disruptive at night.

Preferred Housing

The Preferred Housing Unit (PHU) is an innovative housing option located in G dorm. It was implemented at the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility in February 2005. Youth who are housed in the unit are provided with extra privileges and incentives.

The intent is to provide the motivation or incentive for positive behavior through the opportunity to earn placement in the special housing unit. It was noted that it has made an impact, though initially it was a concern that they were removing the best behaved from population, youth who tended to have a calming effect on the others. However, after close examination of the incident reports after three months, it was concluded that, “It’s working for us.”

Educational/Vocational Programs

Based on the information provided by staff in response to the ACA Standards survey developed by CIIC staff, it was relayed that the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility does use community resources for vocational training programs, but that the facility still needs more vocational programs. As of the response of September 22, 2005, it was relayed that their vocational program consists of computer classes.

CIIC Database: Contacts and Concerns

From January 1, 2005 to January 20, 2006, the CIIC received 44 contacts system-wide from or regarding a DYS juvenile correctional facility. Contacts ranged from no contacts from or regarding Freedom Center to 16 contacts from or regarding the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. There were only four contacts from or regarding the Cuyahoga Juvenile Correctional Facility.

From January 1, 2005 to January 20, 2006, the 44 contacts received by the CIIC from or regarding a DYS juvenile correctional facility, relayed a total of 164 problems, issues or concerns. The reported concerns ranged from none at Freedom Center, to the high of 67 at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility ranked second in volume of reported concerns, with 27 logged concerns. There were nine reported concerns from or regarding the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility, and nine also from or regarding the Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek.

Of the nine reported concerns from or regarding the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility received by the CIIC from January 1, 2005 to January 20, 2006, two each pertained to Food Services, Staff Accountability, and Telephone. One reported concern was received in each of the following categories: Health Care, Institution Assignment, and Other. The subject categories of the reported concerns are provided below.

Grievance Procedure

According to written material provided by DYS staff on grievances filed from January through July 2005, the largest number of grievances at the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility pertained to laundry services, alleging that youth clothing is “lost” in the laundry. One grievance alleged that some staff discipline the group over misconduct of one. One youth relayed the same complaint to CIIC staff during the inspection. This was discussed with facility staff. It was clarified that “group punishment” or “group discipline” is not authorized. However, staff relayed an example in which a line of 40 youth in the corridor may be stopped until they are quiet due to misconduct of one youth. In the communication with youth on the day of the inspection, numerous youth commented that in their view, the grievance procedure “doesn’t work.”

Grievance Summary September-December 2005

A review was made of the ODYS Grievance Summary for September through December 2005, focusing on the grievances from the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. The general theme of the grievances included complaints of abusive language by staff, racial slurs by staff, phone privileges, mail and discipline.

There were 18 grievances pertaining to staff, with nine such grievances investigated. In five of those cases, staff were “warned, notified, or advised on their actions.” In one grievance, the proper authorities were notified, and in one grievance, the youth was released before the grievance investigation was completed. One of the grievances had no response.

In other grievances reviewed, youth alleged that they were not receiving mail, stamps, etc. In most cases involving mail, the grievance was immediately investigated and resolved. Other grievances alleged that youth were being denied phone privileges, at times because a youth’s schedule conflicted with the phone time. The outcomes of all

phone related grievances were that youth were not to be denied the allotted phone privilege, regardless of their schedule. One youth was granted a special time period to call.

Many grievances were filed regarding a disciplinary punishment. However, discipline is reportedly not grievable unless the discipline was contrary to policy.

In two grievances, youth alleged denial of the request to go to Bible Study. The response relayed that if more than 10 youth wanted to attend Bible Study, the grieving youth would be permitted to attend on a rotating basis. However, if less than 10 youth wanted to attend the Bible Study, the grieving youth would be permitted to attend every day. Other grievances pertained to building temperature, shower water temperature, commissary and laundry.

INDIAN RIVER JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
On-Site Visit Date: May 3, 2006
CIIC Staff

Selection Criteria of Youth

According to the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility staff, youth are transferred to the facility from the Male Reception Center at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. All of the youth assigned to Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility have been convicted of Felony 1 or 2 offenses. Reportedly, the majority of the youth come from the northeast Ohio cities of Akron, Canton, Cleveland, and Youngstown.

Release Data

On April 3, 2006, facility staff provided release data for 2005. There were 221 youth released and discharged from the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility during this period. According to the data, the most frequent types of release are categorized as Discharged at Age 21 (DIS), Judicial Release-Parole (ERL), Judicial Release-Probation (ERL), and Released from Institution to Parole (REL). 175 were released from the institution to parole.

Release data was also provided for the first quarter (January through March) of 2006. There were 44 youth released and discharged from the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility during this period. Thirty-four of the youth were released from the institution to parole.

Medical Services

The Health Services Administrator led the walk-through of Medical Services. The unit was very clean, and contained one exam room. The medication is safely secured in a locked cart and locked refrigerator. The reception area of the medical unit on all four walls, including the cabinets and other permanent fixtures, were painted with a ceiling to floor mural. The artistic talent of the youth who painted the mural was most impressive.

According to staff, medical and mental health staff include: one Medical Doctor, nine Registered Nurses, two Psychiatrists, one Psychology Assistant, and one Psychologist. Staff on-site were friendly, courteous and professional. The supplies and equipment cabinet was locked to secure the contents. Located within the medical unit was the Pharmacy and "Med Pick-Up" station. The med pick-up station was built with a glass window and rolling steel window blind that is locked when the station is closed. Conveniently, the window opens onto the cafeteria, since medical dosage schedules often require youth to take the medication with their meals. The medical staff relayed that the largest pill call is in the morning, with a decrease in the number of youth attending later in the afternoon.

Psychological Services

According to the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility “Welcome Book”, the Psychology Department offers services for the youth and staff. According to the information provided, the Psychology staff consists of one Contract Psychiatrist, two Licensed Psychologists, and two Psychology Assistants.

Members of the Psychology Department provide in-service training to Indian River staff on suicide management, verbal interaction techniques, mental health and retardation training and drug interaction training. In addition to the in-service training, members of the Psychology Department also answer mental health questions and offer consultation to staff.

In addition to the individual one-on-one services provided by Psychology staff, they offer a wide array of psycho-educational programs to the youth on the Mental Health Unit. According to the information from staff, the Psychology Department conducts psychological evaluations for the courts, Release Authority, the regions and community cluster groups upon request. The Psychology Department also meets with parents/guardians of youth and also conducts family therapy sessions. They also work closely with regional psychologists and parole officers to insure continuity of care for the youth.

In regard to the above, the information provided regarding Psychology staff and services at the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility presents the Psychology Department as a resource available for the asking, ready and willing to help staff, youth, and families. This positive attitude and perspective among the Psychology staff is applauded. Their report of offering training in verbal interaction techniques is yet another indication of their dedication to responding to needs.

Community Services

According to information provided by the Department of Youth Services’ website, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility has participated in 8,481 hours of community service. The IRJCF community service program has developed several initiatives that provide on-going service to the community. These continuous projects have enabled staff to better schedule time and supplies, and to give youth an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the impact they have on the community. The organizations in the community welcome the youth’s efforts, and have participated in programs designed to involve the youth and their families. Agencies receiving services from the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility in 2005 include but are not limited to the following:

- The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- The Battered Women’s Shelter in Massillon
- Brecksville Veteran’s Administration
- Saint Joseph’s Church
- Several hospitals and nursing homes

Education

According to their “Welcome Book”, the Indian River School is chartered by the Ohio Department of Education. The purpose of the school is to provide for the educational needs of the youth of Indian River. The school, which is located behind the main building, is less than two years old. The education building looks similar to some Middle Schools and High Schools seen in communities. The Principal was present on the day of the on-site visit as well as the Assistant Principal. The building is large with spacious classrooms and modern design. The T-shaped building is divided into three hallways, one for academic, one for vocational, and one for title programs and groups.

Classrooms were specifically designed for roofing and framing, auto body, welding, personal development, and the AOT (Automated Office Technology) lab. In addition to the classrooms, the building also provided offices for the education staff, and a library. Each of the classrooms had a TV and VCR. A legal rights poster was posted in the hallway.

The entry hallway also posted the Student of the Week photo. Teachers vote for a student who most deserves the award in the Student of the Week Program. The winner gets special perks such as reading the morning announcements and receives a \$5 vending machine card. A local Dairy Queen provides ice cream to the students and teachers of one class per week as a reward for good work and behavior. It is an excellent example of a positive incentive provided to affect behavior and the environment for the benefit of all.

According to the Indian River “Welcome Book”, students identified as Special Education students by the IEP Committee receive instruction from Teachers who have Special Education Certification. Instruction may be provided in regular academic classes if the IEP Committee determines that the student can function reasonably well in these classes. In addition to the Special Education classes, the “Welcome Book” states that Chapter 1 classes are provided for students whose reading and/or math levels indicate that they are in need of remediation. These students have the ability to test out of the classes once they show improvement.

The Youth Therapy Group was in session during the on-site visit. A Social Worker was conducting the class of individuals with past chemical dependency, who have been ordered by the court to take the class as therapy for their substance abuse. Reportedly, individuals with the most serious case of substance abuse go to the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility, which provides a therapeutic community model of substance abuse treatment.

The Family and Personal Development classroom was observed. The room was empty as no class was held at the time of our visit. The room had two complete kitchens and is used for developing life skills such as cooking. The equipment and storage room was secure. The classroom has a TV/VCR, which is used for various cooking and demonstration tapes.

The Art courses offered to youth include work with clay sculpture, calligraphy, paper mache, digital photos, various paints, pencil, pastels, and charcoal. The classroom has a separate room for a throwing wheel, easels, and a kiln.

According to staff, graduation rates among the youth equal 1/5 or 20% of the population, and nearly 80-90% of youth who prepare for the GED through a pre-GED program, pass the test. The majority of the youth who take the GED are 17-18 years old.

According to members of the Education staff, youth are “begging” for college courses to continue their schooling after they receive their GEDs and to become better prepared for society. The Superintendent is currently researching grants to cover the cost to provide postsecondary education options.

GED classes are held in the Library. Each of the GED Instructors teaches a specific section of the test. The students take a practice test once or twice per month. Formal testing is conducted once per month. The students are taught in small groups of three or four, which allows each student to get enough attention to address their needs. Indian River Juvenile Correctional facility staff proudly relayed that 56 students had completed the GED in June of 2005. The Channel One School News Program is also located in the Library.

Youth Housing

The main building located in the front of the compound houses a medical services area, recreation, mental health offices, control room, records office, dining room, kitchen, and the living units. The personnel offices are also located in the main building.

Poetry and art created by the youth are displayed on the walls of the main corridor. The art designs include eagle and flag art. Each unit has six safe rooms. The CIIC memo and a legal rights poster are posted in every unit.

Staff relayed that each unit is responsible for developing their own Unit Plan. The Indian River Unit Plan reports that 11 staff members are currently assigned to handle the daily operations of each unit. One Unit Administrator oversees both security and program personnel on the unit. A Treatment Services Clerk is available to the Unit Administrator. One Social Worker is responsible for completing the youth monthly reports. The Social Worker has contact with the youth on a weekly basis. One Psychologist/Psychology Assistant participates in behavior plans and addresses psychological issues that may arise with the youth. There are eight Officers, including three on First and Second shift, and two on Third shift. A General Activity Therapist is assigned to all the units. Such Therapists are responsible for participating in team meetings and they help ensure that each unit is meeting the recreational requirements of the Department of Youth Services. A representative of education participates in teams and evaluate the youth’s educational progress. Every Thursday, each unit has Treatment Team meetings that take place in the unit dayroom. The dayroom provides for a formal and private setting for reviews.

According to the information provided by Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility staff, each youth assigned to the unit has their case reviewed before the unit Treatment Team at least once every four weeks. Each youth appears in person before the unit Treatment Team on the date their case is reviewed, unless special circumstances exist to prevent the meeting. That the facility requires the youth to attend the Treatment Team meeting is regarded as extremely positive. In another DYS facility, a Treatment Team was meeting, and yet no juvenile was present. At that facility, the general rule was to meet without the youth, though they would allow the youth to attend if they specifically requested. The practice of always including the youth, though allowing for special circumstances in which the juvenile is not required to be present, seems to reflect an understanding of one of the real purposes of Treatment Team meetings, and to provide a precious opportunity to listen and respond with total focus on that one youth during the brief period.

Treatment Teams also serve as the forum for the unit staff meetings. Social Workers are responsible for recording the results of the Treatment Team meeting including staff meeting items that are covered. The results are posted on the unit so all assigned unit staff can review them.

Members of the Treatment Team receive a minimum of one hour of training every four weeks. The training occurs prior to the review of the scheduled caseloads. Unit team members are approached each week for issues and concerns they wish to have considered for training. The psychology staff, Social Worker Supervisor, Unit Administrator and specialty area experts provide training.

D-UNIT

Unit is located on the northeast section of the housing units. The unit is known as the Honor Dorm. D-Unit houses the high school graduates and the Merit Program. The average age of the students in the unit is 15-20 years of age. According to the Unit Plan, the selection criteria for the youth include displaying good behavior, including obtaining and maintaining a level 3 or 4 for a minimum of 60 days. After they have been at level 3 or 4 for 60 days, the youth must complete a petition that has questions regarding character and program issues. After the petition is completed, the Unit Administrator and the Social Worker review it. The youth is then given an interview by the Unit Administrator or Social Worker for placement. Other requirements that must be completed by the youth include: performing 20 hours of Community Service, and completing all 22 chapters of the "Thinking for Change" model.

The unit uses the "Thinking for Change" approach to help direct the youth to be more productive citizens and more responsible in decision-making. Because D-Unit is an Honor Dorm, more programs are available to the youth. According to information supplied by the staff, available programs include: Driver's Education, Parenting, Victim Awareness, and other Life Skills needed for successful re-entry.

The unit has 24 sleeping rooms with an available common area, restroom, shower area, and washroom. The Indian River Unit Plan states that some of the rooms have a single

bed and some are double-bunked to accommodate their capacity of 28 youth. The rooms were considered to be of adequate size, and include a narrow glass window with a view to the yard. In the unit is the Core Control Booth, which has peripheral control booths for each unit extending from the center. There were no staff members in the unit control booth during the on-site visit. A dayroom is located in the middle of the room. One youth engaged in the Computer program was working independently on his assignment. The bathroom and shower facilities were in good condition. A juvenile Painter was working in the area, busy with painting touch up.

During the visit to D-Unit, CIIC staff spoke with staff members in the Unit. Staff relayed that youth have an opportunity to earn wages for jobs ranging from 35 cents to 75 cents per hour for most of the jobs.

Concerns regarding staffing were expressed. All units are reportedly understaffed. One Officer relayed that a lot of time is spent talking, listening to the youth, and being patient with them. The Officer reportedly demands respect and consistency from the youth in return. The Officer relayed that the youth want structure, and that many are “scared” when they first arrive at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility.

According to staff, some of the merit youth are scattered throughout the units because of the renovations taking place. However, the merit youth will be housed in the same unit when the housing renovations and construction is completed. According to staff, this will allow the facility to improve their programming.

C-UNIT

According to the Indian River Unit Plan, C-Unit is the Mental Health Unit. The unit is comprised of youth who have been qualified by ODYS standards for a special needs environment. The juveniles in the unit range from 12 to 21 years of age.

E-UNIT

According to the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility’s Student Handbook 2005-2006, E-Unit serves as a general population unit with youth ranging from ages 15 to 21 years old. However, in follow-up communication from the Superintendent, it was relayed that the youth in E-Unit range in age from 17 to 21 years of age.

Reportedly, some of the occupants are former or current gang members. The unit is a dormitory setting consisting of 23 double-bunk rooms, a seclusion room, restroom, washroom, dayroom, and office. The unit consists of 24 bedrooms including 23 double bunked and one single bedroom. The total capacity of the unit is 47 youth. According to the Indian River Handbook, the unit utilizes the “Thinking for A Change” teaching model and addresses concerns of peer pressure and anger control. Since some youth in this unit are former gang members, the teaching model is an important piece in changing their mindset. According to written materials provided on site, the unit houses older youth in an effort to prevent them from interacting and possibly victimizing the younger youth ages 12 to 14.

Still, the lack of separation between the age groups reported and observed throughout the DYS facilities, is regarded as a clear area in need of improvement. Even in the case above, in which 15 year olds reportedly share a unit and possibly bunk with a 20 year old there is obvious potential for interaction and possible victimization of the younger youth. In follow-up communication from the Superintendent, it was reported that, “We do not do this. We look at age, size and victimization history.”

Gang Activity

According to staff, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility is one of three ODYS institutions where gang members are assigned. Staff relayed that the members are housed in E-Unit. Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility and the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility are the other two institutions where gang members are assigned. According to staff, the philosophy of ODYS is to divide the gangs among the three facilities rather than have representatives of all the gangs spread across the state at multiple facilities. This strategy is reportedly geared to make it easier for ODYS to monitor the activity of the gangs in the three facilities as opposed to taking a chance on spreading them out and possibly allowing members to establish gangs in multiple facilities.

This is the opposite strategy used by the adult prison system to counter and control security threat groups. Further, in spite of the above reported DYS strategy, at nearly every DYS facility, youth expressed concerns to the CIIC regarding the predatory presence of gangs. At the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, youth and staff members expressed concerns regarding gang activity. Reportedly, gang activity at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility is the root of other problems including extortion of food, bullying, gambling, betting, and “taxing” other juveniles.

On February 14, 2006, CIIC received information regarding youth who relayed problems stemming from gang activity at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility including alleged daily assaults from gang members. Due to the serious allegations, CIIC made an inquiry to the facility. Facility staff were aware of the concerns. The juveniles were interviewed and in the follow-up communication, facility staff acknowledged that assaults had occurred. It was further relayed by staff that one youth expressed his fear that a fight in which he would have to defend himself could postpone his release for three years. Several youth relayed that gangs only act when the gang members are in a group. These youth and several others have expressed frustration that the institution will not lock down, transfer, or at least disperse the gang members. Facility staff indicated that the youth who were harassing the youth in question would be transferred.

The on-site visit included discussion with one staff member regarding the reported allegation that one or more staff at the facility were or had been affiliated with gangs. Reportedly, several “good staff” have been gang members. The staff person responded that past affiliation is regarded as experience that can be an asset, enabling them to better identify with the gang mindset and be more effective, rather than a negative factor.

Whether this is only a perspective of one staff person or many, it prompts concern, for prior or current gang membership can result in collusion with such members in wrongdoing. Such incidents have been alleged.

The Cycles of Gang Behavior

On February 15, 2006, Indian River Juvenile Correctional staff spoke with CIIC staff regarding the gang issues at the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility. According to the follow-up information provided by staff, the gang behavior goes in cycles. In past years, Indian River had gangs that were more fully developed and sometimes carried out operations on the streets while the youth were incarcerated. Now, there is less organization within the gangs. The gang behavior is immature and often based on immediate need gratification. Reportedly, some youth use the term “gang” as an excuse for bad behavior. According to staff, gang members are identified upon entry at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility reception center. They are deemed “passive” until they start acting out within the institution.

Staff relayed concern that some of the institutional gangs carry over to the outside. For example, if a youthful offender is a “Felon” gang member while incarcerated, they continue to be a “Felon” gang member even after they are released.

On March 15, 2006, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility staff provided information and insight into how gang activity grew and spread to other institutions. According to the information, the presence of gangs started in the 1980’s when youth claimed to have affiliation with nationally known groups such as the Crips and the Bloods. Based on the information, ODYS had only passing association with the juvenile gangs that were part of the nationally known groups developed in the Los Angeles and Chicago areas such as the Crips, Bloods, Folks, People, and the Jamaican Posse. It was uncommon for an institution gang to form an independent gang.

According to information from staff, in the late 1990’s gangs started to coordinate and communicate between institutions. According to staff, gang activity is divided into two cycles, defining their history and their current role in the ODYS institutions.

However, most of the ODYS institutions reportedly have entered a transition stage between the cycles. Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility started going through their transition at the end of 2005. Reportedly, one of the major players in gang activity was arrested and transferred to the adult system. Eventually, there was a fractioning of the major groups like the Felons and HB. By the end of the year, both had developed so many off shoots that a new one seemed to be formed every day. This diluted the networking capabilities to a point where it became sporadic and superficial. There was also minimal outflow to the streets and the geographic base of the gangs was forgotten.

Other issues that have reportedly weakened the presence of gangs are infighting among the groups that have caused members to flop from group to group. Some of the reasons

for the infighting and flopping between groups are attributed to egos. Reportedly, everyone wants to be the leader. According to staff, other factors include:

- Gang signs and symbols are misspelled or drawn incorrectly
- List of members contain individuals who have been released or transferred
- Leaders count on their reputations to keep members
- More intimidation of other youth (as opposed to staff), and
- Lack of planning to address the needs of the group.

Working to Find a Solution

As recently as February 14, 2006, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility staff relayed that gang activity is a major current issue of staff and youth. Reportedly, some youth were refusing to leave their rooms to go to programs, in order to avoid the gangs. It was relayed that staff are addressing the issue.

Controlling the presence of gang activity is an absolute necessity at all DYS facilities. It is a problem that warrants the coordinated resources and effort of the DYS Central Office. It is recommended that effort be made to seek out information from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on methods proven to be effective in managing and reducing gang activity within institutions and within the entire system.

Any solution must include a swift and meaningful consequence to serious misconduct. It is strongly recommended that DYS fill the void in the current system by creating fully programmed behavioral modification units. The units would be far more effective in dealing with disruptive, assaultive, threatening behavior than the current policies and practices regarding use of seclusion rooms.

According to staff, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility is working to find a solution by prosecuting gang behavior within the institution. The Ohio Highway Patrol investigates alleged criminal offenses and submits their findings to the Prosecutor. Staff relayed that one such case was brought to the Prosecutor on February 14, 2006.

Level System

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility uses a level system in an effort to reward youth for their good behavior and discipline them for bad behavior. Facility staff provided information regarding the DYS policy number 502.01.03-01, which all the institutions follow. According to the DYS policy, the level system is the program in the institution, which provides a consistent, positive, and orderly means for encouraging and rewarding a positive living environment. It reportedly provides the structure and ground rules for effective supervision, observation, and protection of youth. The policy further explains that the Code of Daily Living and Rules of Youth Conduct are used. This is considered a learning process that is carried from one level to the next through tasks and higher performance levels. According to the Level System, positive behavior and performance bring greater positive consequences. Youth who have a negative

performance or progress, not due to lack of ability, are required to repeat the level until progress is made.

Each level has specific expectations that are consistent with the general areas addressed by the treatment teams. Progression through the levels is expected to reflect a shift from primarily staff directed to youth self-directed activities. Indian River staff believe that the progression through the levels allows the youth to establish independence and problem-solving skills, and to help to become more pro-social as opposed to anti-social.

The system contains five levels. Four of the levels are positive and one is a corrective level. Youth advance through each level as they meet the behavior and program expectations associated with each.

Youth are evaluated monthly by a Social Worker and petitions for status changes are considered at that time. The Social Worker works with the youth to complete this petition as appropriate and signs the petition indicating that it has been reviewed prior to the team considering the promotion request. Youth Level status is then posted on the unit by Friday afternoon with a copy forwarded to the school, operations office, recreation, and psychology area.

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility staff provided information on General Status Determination, which is used as a reference in determining youth status. Listed below are the four factors used in determining status levels:

- To maintain a current level: youth must remain compliant with requirements and tasks within a specific level.
- Youth could drop a level if: the youth is found guilty by the IDC of a Category I offense, youth is non-compliant with behavioral requirements and tasks of present level, or if the youth on the Merit Unit could be moved off the unit if they drop a level.
- Youth will receive a level promotion if: the youth is petitioned for the next higher level and has met the requirements of that level as evaluated by the Treatment Team.
- Youth may be placed on Corrective Level if: Youth is on Level I for 60 days without moving forward. Youth is guilty of a Category I offense. The Treatment Team, pending the outcome of the investigation, to address the problem behaviors, could initiate a special Behavior Plan.

Although the Corrective Level is described in policy 502.01.03 as a position given to a youth because of a minor rule violation and/or an IDC ruling, it also plays a part in the learning process of the youth. DYS policy considers the Corrective Level to be a consequence as part of the learning process since the purpose of discipline is to correct and teach.

According to the information provided by staff, the Treatment Team develops a Corrective Level Management Plan before the youth is placed on the Corrective Level.

Time on the Corrective Level is for up to two weeks, depending on the level of the offense. Major rule violations involving attempts to escape, assault, sexual misconduct, and property damage, or possession of contraband (pencils, etc.) automatically result in a two-week Corrective Level. Other major violation resulting in an IDC hearing can result in a one-week Corrective Level. Once the youth is removed from the two week Corrective Level, they will be placed back on Level 1. Youth removed from the one week Corrective Level are placed on a level determined by his Treatment Team.

While on the Corrective Level the youth has no privileges other than the Basic Nine. According to staff, the Basic Nine is the term used by ODYS to describe the basic nine necessities of youth such as food, clothing, shoes, visits, hygiene, grooming, religion, and bedding. The youth on Corrective Level are allowed to receive mail and can make five-minute phone calls, within the guidelines of unit rules. In recreation, the youth follow the recreation plan developed by the Recreation Department. Once the assignments are completed, the youth meet with the Treatment Team and discuss the following:

- The rule infraction violated to earn a Corrective Level
- The tasks and accomplishments the youth has completed.
- What the youth learned from his stay on the Corrective Level, and what he plans to do differently in the future.

Concerns From Facility Staff

On March 1, 2006, CIIC received communication from Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility Staff regarding issues and concerns pertaining to control of youth, training methods, improper terminations, assaults, inadequate supervision, inadequate security and current conditions. Staff relayed that issues also remain regarding staff training, medical care for staff, investigation of crimes, and the administration. Staff relayed concerns regarding gang activity and youth assaults during the on-site visit as well.

The concerns regarding medical care for staff were based on one incident that occurred on November 30, 2005. On that day, an Officer received a spiral fracture of his leg while trying to restrain a disruptive youth. Reportedly, the Officer was put in a wheel chair and pushed to the front lobby, without immobilizing his injured leg, and he reportedly was “screaming” in pain. The staff who contacted the CIIC alleged that the Officer should not have been moved.

In regard to the employee’s security concerns, it was alleged that the Administration adopted an unofficial policy that if you have a problem with a youth, you pick up your radio and verbally call for assistance. It was further alleged that the Superintendent recently issued a memo saying that the number of codes were down, but did not specify whether or not bad behavior was being reduced. Reportedly some employees do not know when to call for immediate assistance or push a code.

Employee concerns regarding the administration were based on a situation that occurred in 2005. The staff person questioned the methods used by the Operations Manager to restrain a youth. Reportedly, in 2005, the Operations Manager intervened in a situation, where a youth threatened an Officer with physical harm. This youth allegedly suffered a broken jaw.

The above reported concerns were relayed to the Superintendent in a written inquiry on March 2, 2006. On March 8, 2006, the Superintendent responded to the inquiry. In regard to the allegations of improper medical attention for employees, it was relayed that Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility has licensed Registered Nurses who are able to provide initial care until Paramedics arrive, and the Nurses provided first response care to the Officer who sustained a leg fracture and was lying on the ground in the courtyard. The Nurses moved the Officer, and there were no indications that moving the Officer compromised him in any way.

In regard to the security concerns, it was reported that employees are encouraged and even required to get additional assistance, if talking to a youth alone does not gain the youth's compliance. This is reported to be a prerequisite to the use of force except in cases of self-defense. Reportedly, it is clear to employees that they should always request assistance before using force when verbal de-escalation does not work and the youth is not an imminent danger to self or others. Further, it was reported that emergency calls by way of pressing a signal are routed immediately over the loudspeaker.

Most of the feedback from the youth was positive. One 16 year-old youth from northeast Ohio relayed that his stay at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility has been positive and productive because it has helped him to learn from his mistakes. The young man is part of the MRDD Mental Health Unit and had two months left to serve on his sentence. His goal is to get into the culinary program offered by the Indian River School. He also expressed how much he loved science.

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH CENTER AT PAINT CREEK
On-Site Visit Date: September 8, 2005
CIIC Staff

Therapeutic Training for All Staff

It is significant and positive that the cooks (and all staff) are fully involved in the same training as other program staff so that all staff use the same therapeutic approach in interacting with youth. It was also positive to learn that employees routinely eat with the youth due to their view that the interaction is an opportunity to continue the program.

Cognitive Behavior Program

Some refer to the program as a cognitive behavior program, and it does resemble other cognitive behavior programs in curriculum. However, the program appears to go far beyond any other cognitive behavior program seen in the DYS facilities or even in the Ohio prisons. The difference seems to be the connection between the youth and the staff, the staff's level of caring about the youth, which appears to be reciprocated, and the responsibilities of one for the other. The therapeutic term clearly applies at the Lighthouse Youth Center.

CIIC staff have been to therapeutic community (TC) programs within DYS facilities and within the Ohio prisons. They demonstrate the extent to which implementation of the TC model can differ from place to place and the reality that it is not a panacea in and of itself. The basic concepts may serve as the foundation for all such "TC" programs, but the difference is observable in the impact on the environment and the individuals in that environment. The difference appears to be the extent to which the staff and participants truly "buy into" the concepts, believe what is taught, and practice what is taught every moment of every day. There is a unity between the staff and youth at Lighthouse Youth Center, or as staff termed it, they are a "community." The necessary ingredient among the staff to achieve the apparent success with the youth is believed to be staff's genuine dedication or caring about the youth, which youth reciprocate. The structure and concepts of the program provide essential tools for both youth and staff, but without the right staff, the program likely would not have the positive results that Lighthouse Youth Center has attained.

Benefit of Private, Non-Profit Status

Lighthouse Youth Services is a 35 year-old private, non-profit organization that is based in Cincinnati, Ohio. While there are two privately operated prisons in Ohio, the agency that operates the facilities has for profit status. The non-profit status of Lighthouse Youth Services makes it stand out from the others. Its status tends to reflect that their prime focus truly is on their mission. Their status is consistent with the repeated comments from youth that Lighthouse Youth Center is "different" because "the staff really care about us."

Safety and Security Procedures

Belief in their programming was evident in the safety and security procedures. Unlike most juvenile correctional facilities, the Lighthouse Youth Center is not surrounded by a fence, razor wire, or even locked doors. According to the Youth Handbook, security is achieved by maintaining a very structured program and constant staff supervision. Youth not only have responsibility for their peers, but they also have the responsibility to communicate with staff regarding problems. According to the Youth Handbook, the youth are only allowed out of the direct view of staff in the final phase of their program.

Rate of Injury Due to Assault

Also according to the Handbook, the rate of injury of a peer caused by another peer is extremely low compared to most other youth facilities, with a corresponding reduced risk to the community. According to the Program Description Summary, since the inception of Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek in 1986, no staff person or youth has ever sustained serious injury as the result of a physical restraint, youth assault on another youth or youth assault on staff. Youth assaults on youth or youth assaults on staff are reported to be extremely rare events, occurring in intervals averaging three or five years.

“Criminal Personality” Labeling

The approach of advising youth that they have a “criminal personality,” thus assigning them with a label that could serve as a self-fulfilling prophecy, prompts some concern. Correctional lectures have been given by scholars on the dangers of labeling and mislabeling, even diagnostic labeling and mislabeling, especially in corrections. The premise that all youthful offenders have a “criminal personality” and the validity of such personality is subject to debate. Simple answers to explain all crime and delinquency tend to be very appealing, but the reality of the complexity of humans and human behavior, makes an eclectic theory of multiple causal factors influencing decisions and actions which result in violations of law, far more likely. Aside from the above issue regarding the alleged “criminal personality,” the program and methods at the Lighthouse Youth Center certainly appears to achieve the desired results based on the behavior observed at the facility and based on the reported recidivism rate. The Lighthouse Services leaflet states that, “The percentage of Lighthouse-served youth who commit additional crimes is less than half that of youth referred to traditional correctional institutions.”

No Juvenile Correctional Officers

During the on-site visit, staff explained differences between the Lighthouse Youth Center and the other ODYS facilities. One of the differences cited is that the Lighthouse Youth Center does not have any Juvenile Correctional Officers on staff. The Lighthouse Youth Center staff includes a part time licensed independent Social Worker, and the Program Director is also a Licensed Social Worker. Peer driven groups reportedly function in similar fashion as some staff at ODYS institutions. Youth workers reportedly handle all

the security and casework concerns that are usually addressed by the Juvenile Correctional Officer and unit staff in the ODYS institutions.

Cost Savings to DYS

According to the staff, the Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek is considered a “cost savings” to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, because the facility is eligible for Title IV-E funds. Reportedly, the size of the facility also helps to make it more economical. The Lighthouse Youth Center’s budget allows for a capacity of 63, which is reported to be cost effective.

Accreditation

Staff relayed that the Lighthouse Youth Center recently received a three-year accreditation award with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The Commission has awarded the Lighthouse Youth Center program Exemplary Status. The Lighthouse Youth Center is not an accredited institution under the American Correctional Association (ACA) and does not plan to pursue accreditation. Staff relayed that their facility is larger than the ACA small facilities, but they are much smaller than the ACA full size facilities. The ACA standards for full size facilities pertaining to medical services and tools inventory would be problematic for the Lighthouse Youth Center. Staff relayed that although they serve “correctional” youth, they consider themselves to be a treatment program first and foremost.

Average Population

The Lighthouse Youth Center ranks as the second smallest, with an average population of 49.3 in January 2006, and ranging from 49 to 51 from July 2005 through January 2006.

Escape Attempts

Staff relayed that the Lighthouse Youth Center averages one flight attempt per year, though they had a consecutive three-year period without even one flight attempt.

Recidivism

According to staff, the Lighthouse Youth Center has consistently achieved low recidivism rates. Over time, their recidivism rate has been approximately 27% for youth that complete the program. The University of Cincinnati completed the most recent recidivism study. According to the staff, the Lighthouse Youth Center demonstrated an 11% recidivism rate with high-risk juvenile offenders in the study. The information found in the study is an indication that the Lighthouse Youth Center does its best work with the highest risk youth.

Positive Peer Community

According to the information supplied by staff, the positive peer community requires youth to be responsible for other youth similar to a small “society”. The Lighthouse Youth Center believes that it is very important for the youth to feel they are part of a larger group of people that will help the youth feel more a part of the community when they are released. If youth learn to respect the rules of society while at the Lighthouse Youth Center, staff believe that they will be less likely to commit the crimes or hurt others when they are released. Therefore, while youth are in the program, they are expected to hold other youth accountable for negative behaviors, as well as to give caring support to other youth as they work on their issues.

Thinking Errors

According to the Youth Handbook, the staff and youth focus on assisting other youth in identifying criminal thinking errors. The Lighthouse Youth Center staff believe that thinking errors are present in the youth’s daily living and have been demonstrated by the youth in all aspects of their life prior to placement in the Lighthouse Youth Center. A youth’s placement in the facility has become another “arena” in which youth demonstrate these errors in thinking. By assisting youth in identifying thinking errors, youth can begin to dissect their thought processes. The thinking errors are not always easily observed in the youth’s behaviors and it is only through daily “dissection” of their thought process that youth can begin to evaluate their distortions and make changes. The Lighthouse Youth Center has identified five categories of thinking errors.

Contacting Outside Agencies

To advise not only youth, but also their families that they may contact specific outside agencies about complaints or problems pertaining to the Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek, is regarded as an extremely positive gesture.

Quality

From all that is known about the facility and program based on the CIIC on-site visit, careful review of materials, and communication received by CIIC, the Lighthouse Youth Center is unquestionably one of, if not the best of all DYS facilities.

Grievance Procedure

Serious consideration should be given by DYS and the Lighthouse Youth Center Director to make the DYS grievance procedure accessible to DYS youth at the Lighthouse Youth Center. There are significant benefits that are likely to accrue from implementing this recommendation. One such benefit for youth is consistency. They learn about the DYS grievance procedure while in reception status at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Those who are transferred to the Lighthouse Youth Center are re-oriented to a different grievance procedure in which the DYS Chief Inspector has no role or function. Where

there were no time limits on filing a grievance or appealing a grievance decision in the DYS grievance procedure, at the Lighthouse Youth Center, there are time limits of seven days and three days respectively.

Although there are similarities in the DYS grievance procedure and the Lighthouse Youth Center grievance procedure, as noted above, youth at the Lighthouse Youth Center have no opportunity to appeal to the DYS Chief Inspector. Due to being a separate grievance procedure, the DYS Chief Inspector receives no grievance information to monitor and no grievance appeals to investigate. Because there is no such link to the DYS Chief Inspector in the grievance procedure used at the Lighthouse Youth Center, there is a missed opportunity for the flow of information in both directions that would serve to increase communication and knowledge and to connect, rather than isolate one from the other. It is believed that both DYS and Lighthouse Youth Center would benefit from the link through the grievance procedure.

Positive and Productive Atmosphere

The Lighthouse Youth Center's unique and innovative concepts begin with the facility itself. The fact that the facility is located on the site of an old baseball campsite provides an atmosphere in which the youth appear to thrive. Although tension between youth and staff, and between youth and youth has been observed in some DYS facilities, no signs of tension were observed at the Lighthouse Youth Center. A combination of factors, including the location, the staff, and the program itself, seemed to provide a positive atmosphere conducive to learning and developing life skills that will assist in the youth's maturation into adulthood.

The "staff secure" security system is another unique and innovative concept of the Lighthouse Youth Center. Rather than fencing and security hardware, Lighthouse Youth Center relies heavily on the trust and communication between the staff and the youth. Together, they create an atmosphere that is very different from typical juvenile correctional "institutions."

Educational Goals

Perhaps what made the greatest impression during the on-site visit was the number of youth who expressed an interest in going to college after their release. Many of the youth stated that they were going to enroll in a two-year or four-year university. A college banner hung in one of the youth's rooms as evidence of their motivation to earn a college education. CIIC staff spoke with a group of youth in the dayroom. Youth were asked how many plan to go to college. Amazingly, nearly all hands went up, and they spoke with excitement and sincerity regarding the possibility of reaching their goal. This is a clear indication of how hard the staff have worked to instill the value of education and to build it into their plans and goals for the future. Equally significant was the observation of the number of content youth quietly reading in the dayrooms as they waited for the lunch period to begin.

Non-Institutional Environment

The Lighthouse Youth Center employees are commended for the program, opportunities, and environment provided for the youth. The fact that they have no juvenile correctional officers but rather “youth workers” is regarded as one of the factors, which helps to create the special, non-institutional environment. Unlike youth perceptions stemming from the very title of “correctional officer,” the staff who work as “youth workers” tend to be regarded as persons who are truly trying to help the youth. There is no distinction between treatment and security staff. Youth workers serve as case manager and group facilitator, but also fulfill security and safety responsibilities.

Vocational Culinary Arts Program

CIIC staff suggested in the closing discussion with the Program Director that consideration be given to developing a vocational culinary arts program for youth assisting in food services so that they could earn a certificate and possible job related employment on their release.

Extracting the Positives

The Lighthouse Youth Center has some significant similarities to the Missouri model that has been studied by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The most significant aspect of the Center is its environment, not only the place, but the staff, the youth and the culture created which appears the very opposite of the culture of juvenile correctional institutions. It is strongly recommended that DYS look into the extent to which the Lighthouse Youth Center program, methods and staff training can benefit the current staff in the DYS institutions who seek tools to prevent and address behavior problems of youth.

MARION JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Inspection Date: September 1, 2005
CIIC Member: Representative Robert Latta
CIIC Staff

Overtime

In the initial meeting with Administrative staff, it was relayed that the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility staff were “tired but dedicated.” Reportedly, due to staff shortages, staff were mandated to work overtime, sometimes 16-hour shifts. Some facility staff acknowledged that the decision-making capacity of employees can be negatively affected by long work shifts.

At the time of the inspection, a panel was slated to review 32 candidates for the Training Academy. However, the expected length of stay for “new hires” was estimated at four to six months.

The average staff retention for Juvenile Correctional Officers was reported to be five to six years. The Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility has reportedly experienced problems with young, inexperienced Juvenile Correctional Officers who have been taken advantage of by youth. This has also believed to be a contributing factor in a large number of youth on-staff assaults. Some staff relayed that they do not have enough discipline and control options. In fact, staff at multiple DYS facilities expressed the same need. According to Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility Administrative staff, they are addressing the issue by sending staff members to training, or a mentoring program, and addressing the need for better verbal strategies. While such methods are extremely valuable, improved training opportunities do not fully address the reported need to create additional discipline and control options.

Youth Length of Stay

Based on September 1, 2005 data, youth who spend less than one year at Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility comprise the largest percentage of youth at that facility. As of September 1, 2005, there were 106 juveniles or 41.1% of the total population in this category. Youth who stay at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility for a period of one to two years comprised the second largest group of youth. There were 61 or 23.6% of the total population in this group. Only four youth or 1.6% were assigned to the facility from five to seven years.

Youth Offense

- The largest number of youth, 49 or 19% of the total population, at Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility as of September 1, 2005, committed Aggravated Robbery.
- The second largest number of youth, 35 or 13.6% of the total population, committed Burglary.

- There were 28 youth, or 10.9% of the total population, who were committed for Felonious Assault and an additional 28 youth, or 10.9%, who committed Robbery.

Safety Aspects

The Control Center was large, clean and well maintained. Two Correctional Officers were operating the center. Building One of the facility houses the Administration, Operations, and Visiting.

Mental Health Caseload

According to Department of Youth Services data of April 3, 2006, there were 53 youth on the Mental Health Caseload at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. Of the 53 youth, there were no differences in racial breakdown between the number of Black and number of White youth on the mental health caseload. The youth on the mental health caseload ranged in age from 14 to 20. The 16 through 18 year-old groups comprised 79.2 percent of those on the mental health caseload.

Intensive Mental Health Caseload

The Intensive Mental Health Unit was included in the inspection. Staff relayed that the unit can only house up to 12 youth. There were seven youth in the unit at the time of the inspection. Although most of the rooms on the Intensive Mental Health Unit were empty, staff relayed that the unit needs more space. The rooms and bathrooms observed were very clean. Staff relayed that there is a mandatory provision of two Juvenile Correctional Officers on first and second shifts and one Officer on third shift. Staff relayed that the Juvenile Correctional Officers assigned to the Mental Health Unit receive additional and in depth training to help them deal with the youth on the unit more effectively.

A group therapy session was observed in the Intensive Mental Health Unit. Thoughts, problem solving and anger issues were addressed. A Social Worker used flash cards of various facial expressions to get the youth to act out the emotions shown on the cards. The youth also discussed anger, problem solving, how to change, how to earn release to the community, and fun. One youth in the group mentioned that he had fun in the group because he can express how he feels. One youth relayed that the chairs are too hard and that they needed new couches.

One youth was observed in the seclusion room/wet cell. Placement reportedly followed his assault of an Officer. The daily log for the youth was reviewed. It included mood, attitude, behavior, meals, shower, recreation, hygiene, mail, and signature of the person completing the log. The bed in the wet cell is mounted to the floor and the mattress and pillow are combined into a single "all in one" unit. According to staff, youth placed in seclusion are checked every 15 minutes around the clock until the youth is released from seclusion. Youth are also given a psychological/psychiatric evaluation in conjunction with seclusion.

STAR Unit (Striving Toward Accepting Responsibility)

Youth in the STAR unit spoke of problems with “fights out there,” that “youth need social skills,” and they’re “hesitant to tell on gangs.” One youth boasted that it was his “third time here” in the gang unit. He said the placement was “the best” compared to general population because the “Unit Manager takes the time to talk to you...He’s going to help you that day. He listens and he don’t forget.” Youth relayed that “in general population, staff are so stressed out.”

Another youth who had been in the STAR unit repeatedly, stated that he gets “something accomplished” each time he returns, like the GED. He indicated that due to the problems in the general population environment, he has been unable to achieve those positive goals.

Youth in the unit expressed concerns for the lack of TV programming from 3:30 pm – 8:00 pm. They stated that due to the recreation restrictions on those in the unit, they can “only do push ups and basketball. No games except cards. So gambling is all there is to do.” They said that reinforces the “negative, not positive.”

Youth in the STAR unit expressed concerns regarding a need for a water fountain, no water pressure in the sinks located in the single rooms, and staff reportedly not allowing youth to shower when they are supposed to have access to shower. Another point of concern from youth was that mail is reportedly not being passed out in the unit every day, as it should be. Finally, youth expressed concern for alleged “blind spots” near the cell doors out of view of the cameras.

Youth in the STAR unit stated that they spend much time locked down, and relayed that they rarely get to go outside. Three youth asked why youth are not released from the STAR unit to go home. The youth noted that even if they “do good” and behave, they are told they will “never go home.” Another youth expressed frustration that he has not been released from the unit even though he has made accomplishments while in the STAR Unit.

Staff discussed the issues regarding gambling with hygiene products in the unit.

Transitional Unit

The lounge area was observed and was equipped with a pool table, stereo, wall mounted television, game tables and chairs. The area was bright and light. The CIIC restart memo was observed in the unit. Each unit is also equipped with a kitchen and once a week, youth cook and have assigned duties and responsibilities in preparing a meal. Several youth spoke with CIIC staff relaying that they had been accepted into various colleges, such as Sinclair Community College, Columbus State and Ohio University. However, the youth relayed that they wish there were college programs made available to those who have already received a high school diploma or GED. The youth in this unit also noted that the bathroom drain has gnats and insects, which they reported to maintenance, but alleged that nothing was ever done to correct the issue. Finally, the youth relayed that the

staff need to be more consistent in behavior towards youth, stating that staff members show favoritism.

General Population Housing Unit

One youth in the General Population Unit explained that the unit used to be the “best unit” and received compliments. However, he claimed that the unit did not receive a pizza party for their good behavior, and have since been acting out as a result.

High School Unit

The CIIC observed Hickory Grove, which reportedly has 24 academic classrooms that resemble any classroom in a public school. The educational area was quiet and bright. Courses taught include the standard mathematics, social studies, and English. The classroom rules were viewable in each classroom, along with an American flag. Also, curriculum content was displayed on the walls in each classroom. A youth expressed several concerns regarding the educational services at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. He stated that Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility needs, “better schooling and better teachers. It is hard to teach (and learn) through distractions of other kids.” The youth relayed the need to individualize classes by intelligence levels, and that better books and reading materials are needed. He expressed that the need for materials about the stock exchange, law and other educational topics would be better than the “kiddie” materials that dominate the reading options.

A special needs classroom was observed. Reportedly, five Special Needs Teachers are employed in total. A Special Needs Teacher relayed that routine and consistency is very important in this type of classroom. Reportedly, it reduces maladaptive behavior and acting out from the youth. The teacher relayed that one must be very attentive to these youth, because all behavior that is displayed is some type of communication. The teacher noted that the corner of the room is padded, and a trampoline was added for children with high energy. Finally, the Special Needs Teacher relayed that it was essential to develop a relationship with Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility unit staff members in order to enforce punishments for behavioral problems that occur in the classroom. A highly trained dog that can sense an oncoming seizure joined the Special Needs Teacher in the classroom.

Vocational Programs

Several vocational programs were observed while at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility:

AUTOMATED OFFICE TECHNOLOGY

This classroom had 12 to 14 personal computers, with Microsoft Office 2000 running on a Windows XP platform. The Instructor is the only individual in the classroom with access and permission to use the printer. It was relayed that students do much career research through the Ohio research system and that students may write letters pertaining to job

information approved by the Principal, or Institutional Superintendent. Subjects taught in AOT included banking, accounting, marketing strategies and the products involved with these industries/businesses.

BARBER SCHOOL

The Barber School has a capacity for 12 students who are in the classroom for six hours per day, and must complete 1,800 hours to take a test given by the Barber Board in Columbus, Ohio. It was relayed that the same training these youth are receiving would cost approximately \$8,000 out of the facility. The program takes 18-24 months to complete. Students cut staff members' hair for \$4.00 and youth can receive a haircut and shave for 25 cents each. Sex offenders are screened out of the barber program.

PRINT SHOP/GRAPHIC DESIGN

The Print Shop at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility was observed. The room was complete with MAC/Apple computers to develop designs, print business cards and stationary. At the time of the inspection, 13 youth were in the morning program, and 11 youth were in the afternoon program. The equipment appeared to be in good working order, and the shop was well organized, with the floors taped and marked with walkways for safety. The print shop prints most DYS materials. Training received in the Print Shop is comprehensive to enable graduates of the program to obtain jobs after completion, and to enable admission to colleges or universities. According to staff, the goal of the Print Shop is to convert to digital and approvals from the Department of Youth Services were in progress at the time of the inspection.

HORTICULTURE

The Horticulture Program was observed. A greenhouse operates with a fully automated water spraying system. The area was neat and clean, and the plants were in excellent condition. It was reported that the youth start growing the plants from seedlings. Once they are grown, the plants are used in the institution, as well as other institutions, and sold to staff members. Youth in the Horticulture Program can obtain a certificate to acquire employment once released to work in greenhouses.

AUTO MECHANICS/AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Two disabled vehicles were observed in the Automotive Programming area, which were donated by the Honda plant, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to allow the youth to learn about the inter-workings of an automobile. The program allows the 15 participants to work on their GED, or special education at the same time, and upon graduation can continue in the automotive program. A "shadowing" system is used for the tools in this area to easily identify any tool that is checked out. The tools were in a secured cage, and no youth were permitted to enter the cage.

CARPENTRY

The Carpentry Shop space was 60 by 60 feet and included desks, tables, chairs and a TV/VCR system for video instruction. The tool crib was in a locked caged area. When youth leave the programming area, they pass through a metal scanner and wand for security purposes. The program for 24 youth reportedly lasts one year, where youth learn about roofing, framing, etc. At the time of the inspection, the youth were working on a gazebo that, upon completion, would be added to the victim's garden at Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility to beautify the area. The youth in this program also have completed community service for Habitat for Humanity, and assisted in rebuilding a portion of a home that had been gutted by fire.

MAINTENANCE

Three youth workers were assigned to the maintenance shop on the day of the inspection. These youth paint and make minor repairs to the building and the grounds. Six youth workers are employed to complete landscaping and lawn mowing of the facility. CIIC staff observed the current project under construction of building desks/podiums for Correctional Officers in the housing units.

LIFE SKILLS/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Life Skills area was observed with three kitchens, each with a stove, microwave, sink, and marked drawers. Two computer stations were observed. Reportedly, each area seats 10-12 students.

Medical Services Building

The Medical Services area at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility was clean. It includes a waiting area, exam area, and dental suite, with two dental chairs. Dental staff are available 16 hours per week for appointments. An Optometrist is on site once per month.

According to information on-site, youth receive medication at the medication window in the cafeteria at 6 am, 11 am through noon, and at 5 pm. Medication is also dispensed between 7 pm and 8 pm. Youth are escorted by staff to receive evening medications. Youth who are placed in seclusion have medications brought directly to them.

Food Services

CIIC staff attended the lunch meal in the youth dining hall. The menu consisted of chicken soup, green beans, Philly cheese steak with onions and peppers, tator tots, chocolate pudding, milk and water. The CIIC member in attendance commented that the food at Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility was the best institution food he had ever eaten. CIIC staff also regarded the meal as excellent.

As a security precaution, the juveniles are patted down when leaving the dining hall. Some youth relayed that the portions are not large enough, while another complained that the dishware is dirty.

Youth Concerns

Youth in the dining area relayed concerns regarding the small portions they receive. Youth also relayed concerns regarding tampering with food. Allegations were made of workers in food services spitting in the food. According to one youth, bugs, flies and maggots have been found in the food, and covers to place over the food were bought only one week prior to the inspection. The youth relayed a need for a camera in the Food Services area reportedly to monitor staff.

One youth relayed that if you ask to use the bathroom in his unit, you must wait from 30 minutes to an hour. He stated that the doors should be electronically controlled, adding that in an emergency “What would happen?”

Some youth relayed that they “have to worry about safety.” One added, “Gangs is the worst part. Staff aren’t doing anything about it. Gangs form here.” One youth stated, “Gangs is the biggest issue here.” Reportedly the STAR (gang) unit “is only for those who are caught.” Youth relayed that the gangs have “control through job assignments”. The group known as “The Felons,” was described as “a bad group,” mostly from Cleveland, “who extort. You give in or get beat up.” Youth relayed that 60-70 percent of the youth in every housing unit are “The Felons.” One youth stated, “It’s not safe here at all. It’s out of control.” One youth stated, “People are assaulted all the time and there’s no protection. It’s daily lock down.” One youth stated, “I wish there were hidden cameras in this place. Some are real mean.” One youth relayed that he is “a loner” because “I’m strong”, and “They don’t mess with me.” Other youth reportedly join gangs “for protection.”

One youth recommended, “Don’t let guys gamble.” Others joined in, noting that debts are owed, and they get “taxed.” Youth reportedly gamble on “everything,” meals, commissary, food, eye contact, arm wrestling. Part of the problem with gambling, according to the youth, is “It’s not busy here.”

Youth spoke about specific “good” staff, adding that there are “not enough Social Workers. We can’t get one on one time with anyone.” Some spoke about problems they experienced while at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Some spoke of the DYS facility that gets “a thumb’s up,” citing Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility where they “push you to do the right thing. We need more programs here to push you.”

In speaking with youth in the gang unit later in the day, one youth relayed the problem of “fights out there,” referring to general population. He added that youth are “hesitant to tell on gangs” and they “need social skills.” When speaking to youth who were proud to be members of “The Felons” they relayed that it was originally a rap group that started in

the community. Now, the group “survives the struggle. Take care of our family behind brick walls. Gambling earns money. It’s a movement, not a gang. That’s how it is here. We’re all united.”

CIIC Database: Contacts and Concerns

From January 1, 2005 through February 24, 2006, the CIIC received 51 contacts system wide from or regarding a Department of Youth Services facility. Contacts ranged from a low of one at the Paint Creek Youth Center, to a high of 17 at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. The Marion Juvenile Correction Facility ranked fourth in the number of contacts with five, along with Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, which also had five contacts. The Freedom Center had no contacts.

As of April 10, 2006, juvenile contacts system-wide total 63, with five from or in regard to Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. At the time of the inspection, system-wide DYS contacts totaled 23.

Of the 18 reported concerns from the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility, six pertained to Force/Supervision, three pertained to Safety/Sanitation and Staff Accountability, two pertained to Laundry/Quartermaster and Other, and one each pertained to Recreation and to the Grievance Procedure.

Staff Concerns

Written inquiries from the CIIC in February 2005 were submitted to the DYS Director in response to anonymous staff communication from and in regard to the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. According to the DYS response, there was no validity to any of the allegations made in the anonymous communication. DYS provided information in support of that finding.

The serious and disturbing allegations included blatant misconduct, mistreatment, discrimination and sexual harassment against female employees at the facility, and non-response to complaints about management staff. According to the DYS response, no complaints were filed with EEOC as alleged. DYS checked their telephone and database records to 1997 and found only two reported incidents of sexual harassment by female staff at Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility in that time period. In response to the reported concerns, DYS took the following action:

- All management and supervisory staff were reminded of the agency’s zero tolerance for sexual harassment
- All management and supervisory staff were referred to DYS Policy 103.28, Anti-Harassment, for review of its content, with special attention to the section that defines the responsibility of managers and supervisors to report and take action if made aware of such situations, and
- All managers and supervisors were required to review the process for reporting incidents of sexual harassment in their entirety.

CIIC received anonymous staff allegations pertaining to layoffs and displacements disproportionately affecting African American and female employees. According to the DYS response to the inquiry, the majority of staff were moved to different positions in the September 2003 Layoff/Displacement Process. It was further relayed that the eliminated job positions/classifications and their duties were not restored. However, the Position Control Numbers (PCN) assigned to an eliminated job position/classification may be reutilized for different job positions/classifications due to a limited number of PCNs assigned to each cost center or area of operation. According to the list provided, the PCNs that were reutilized are now assigned to different job positions/classifications.

It was further relayed in the DYS response to the CIIC inquiry that it has been a practice of ODYS Bureau of Accounting to consistently use proficiency testing as a means to determine if all applicants can prove to be proficient in the minimum qualifications of the position. Applicants for the position in question were pulled from the Department of Administrative Services Certification List. The selected applicant passed the proficiency test and had extensive education and experience. It was reported that there is no job classification or position within the State that is considered to be of a “protected class status” as alleged by the anonymous staff. Information was provided that supports that they are in the same classification as any other DYS employees.

Grievance Coordinator

According to written information provided on site, the Human Resources Program Administrator/Grievance Coordinator is responsible for the development and implementation of the “graduate work project,” funded by a grant that focuses on teaching youth job skills while actually working in different departments within the institution. As Grievance Coordinator, the staff person also facilitates and coordinates the resolution of youth grievances. In addition, the same staff person reportedly serves as the ACA Standards Manager for the Sanitation/Rules Committee.

Grievance Summary

A review was completed on the Grievance Summary for the month of February 2006 at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. Fifty-five grievances were reported in the month of February. Twenty-one grievances were granted/fixed/address; eighteen grievances had no response; sixteen grievances were denied.

A review was made of the monthly grievance summaries provided by the Department of Youth Services for the months of September 2005 through February 2006. In the six-month period, 237 grievances were filed by youth at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility, ranging from 21 in November to 70 in January.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

- Youth says shoes are “junk.” Alleges they are missing straps, have holes and they get wet. Roommates complain that they stink. Youth needs a new pair. NO RESPONSE
- Youth has no clothes. Unit Administrator has filled out several requests. NO RESPONSE
- Officer did room search and took youth’s hygiene products. Officer claimed products were “empty” and threw them away. Unit Administrator explained there was no documentation to prove items were taken. Grievance is DENIED. Upon further investigation, it was found that items were disposed of inappropriately. The items were replaced. Grievance is GRANTED.

STAFF

Examples of grievances pertaining to staff include harassment, failure to perform job duties, and alleged abuse:

- Officers harass youth. [They] call him and his roommates “names and nigger.” They (Officers) write him up and search his room for no reason. NO RESPONSE.
- Officer told youth “[your] Mom thought he had a big penis for a white guy. Dude said something extremely sexual to me.” Youth would not provide staff members’ name. Nothing could be done to address the issue without the name of the alleged staff member. Grievance is DENIED.
- Food Services staff was not following youth’s dietary restrictions. Unit Administrator met with Food Services and the youth. Problem was address and corrected. Grievance is GRANTED.

MAINTENANCE

- In three separate grievances youth relayed concerns regarding no heat in the building.
- Unit Administrator met with youth. Maintenance was contacted and problem was corrected.
- Youth’s room vent is full of dust, no heat gets in, but cold air blows out and his room is cold. Unit Administrator met with youth. Maintenance was contacted and the vent was cleaned.

MOHICAN JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Inspection Date: August 10, 2005
CIIC Staff

Summary

The Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility stands out among the other Department of Youth Facility's because of the Therapeutic Community model of program and treatment that serves as the substance and structure of the DYS commitment and experience. The Mohican facility is one of only a few facilities of its kind in the United States serving adjudicated youth through a Therapeutic Community (TC) program.

The Therapeutic Community (TC) model teaches responsible living and pro-social skills. The TC at the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility operates four families of 42 youth each. The goal of the treatment program is to help residents change their lifestyles from a negative, self-defeating and self-destructive lifestyle to a positive, healthy, winning lifestyle and for youth to return to the community to live drug and crime free lives.

During the inspection, the staff noted that in the Therapeutic Community, idleness or leisure time is a privilege that is earned. It was acknowledged that it takes a trained, dedicated, and committed staff who know, believe in, and exemplify the TC model for the model to effectively produce good results. The mission statement of the facility incorporates a reference to the TC model. The Mohican facility's mission statement reads. "The mission of the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility is to provide holistic substance abuse treatment services to juvenile offenders in a safe, secure, Therapeutic Community that promotes right living principles for a drug and crime free life."

Not only do youth experience the TC model within the confines of the Mohican facility, at least one halfway house, the Smith House, exists with the same Therapeutic Community method and model. The Smith House staff interview youth for acceptance.

Facility Profile and Overview

Located on 16 acres in the Mohican State Forest, the property was originally used as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp, but was redesigned and new buildings were added so that it serves as a medium/maximum facility with a capacity for 168 male juvenile offenders. The overall atmosphere or social environment, including interactions between and among staff and youth at the inspection was good.

The facility reported a budget for fiscal year 2005 of \$12,726,958, including staff payroll and fringe benefits. The per diem cost per youth is reportedly approximately \$218.00.

In 1985, Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility was the first youth facility and one of the first Juvenile Training Schools in the country to be accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The facility has maintained continuous ACA accreditation for over 20 years, reportedly the longest of any correctional facility, juvenile or adult, in the State of Ohio.

The Mohican facility employs 180 full time staff, with minimal vacancies. In-service staff training is mandatory and covers a variety of topics, including CPR, first aid, cultural diversities, youth grievances, youth rights, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and American Correctional Association (ACA) Standards. As observed during the inspection, the staff training room is large and serves as a hub for staff. The space includes officer mailboxes and is furnished with tables and other amenities conducive to training sessions and completion of projects.

Youth Population, Profile, and Census

The facility houses adjudicated male felons, at felony levels 1-4, who may range in age from approximately 13 to 21 years. The average age of the youth population is 17 years and the average length of stay is seven months. Youth who are committed to the Mohican facility have documented alcohol or other substance abuse problems and score at least 21 on the Juvenile Automated Substance Abuse Evaluation. Youth must also have a sufficient length of commitment to complete a six-month program. Youth with more immediate or overriding needs like serious mental health conditions, severe developmental handicaps or behavioral issues requiring intense supervision and intervention, or specialized programming based on offenses such as sex offenses or loss of life, are not committed to the Mohican facility.

An average youth population for a recent seven-month period from July 2005 through January 2006 was 165.7 youth, placing it nearly in the middle of all DYS youth facilities in youth population. A recent youth census for the facility, as of May 31, 2005, reveals the youth cultural distribution as shown in the following table.

Table: Cultural Distribution of Youth as of May 31, 2005

Cultural Population	Number of Youth	Percent of Population
White	86	51.80
African-American	74	44.60
Hispanic	4	2.40
Asian	1	.60
Other	1	.60
TOTAL	166	100.00

The Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility receives youth who have entered the system through the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility Reception Center.

Youth progress through multiple phases of their programming at the Mohican facility, with Phases I, II, and III being designated by the color of shirt the youth wears. Youth who advance to higher privileges in Phase III are given the option to wear a different color shirt and to wear person tennis shoes that may be provided by their legal guardian.

Youth parole or release and re-entry data reveals that youth leave the Mohican facility as shown in the following table. Youth release is under the authority of the Release

Authority of the Department of Youth Services, and not under the jurisdiction of the Mohican Youth Correctional Facility administration.

Table: Categorical Discharges/Releases January through May 2005

Category or Type of Release	Number of Youth	Percent of Released Youth
Completed Program	99	80.5%
Administrative Discharge:		
Judicial Release	17	
Behavioral Problem	5	
Psychological Problem	2	
Administrative Total	24	19.5%
TOTAL	123	100%
Smith House (halfway house) *There were 27 youth, comprising 22% of youth released, who were released to Smith House.	27	22.0%

Administration and Operation Centers

The administration wing and operation center were typical of those found in other juvenile correctional facilities. IN the business office, a television network broadcasts closed circuit programming and messages to youth and staff. All staff clock-in, pick up , and return keys daily. The Operations Center handles all direct services, which include services that ensure the safety and security of staff and youth as well as ensuring that the community within the facility is maintained. Direct Services also handles investigations and recommends potential discipline or corrective action, which is typical of other facilities as well.

Therapeutic Community

As stated in the beginning of this summary, the Therapeutic Community maintains a philosophy that emphasizes that all individuals within the community act as a family to assist one another to make positive and constructive choices and changes, and in the ability to overcome obstacles. Staff and youth are taught about the TC through immersion. As one of only a few facilities of its kind in the country providing a Therapeutic Community program for adjudicated youth, the Mohican facility is set apart from most other facilities. The emphasis on substance abuse education and recovery are incorporated into all areas of institutional life. Each of the three phases includes its own set of expectations and privileges.

The first distinctive characteristic of TC is the use of a *community*, a group of treatment staff, and individuals in recovery as agents of change. The community serves to orchestrate rehabilitative and habilitative attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors. Youth are helped to ‘relearn’ healthy life functions, skills, and values and to learn for the first time behavioral skills, attitudes, and values associated with socialized living. Staff offer “rational authority” as youth move up the ladder in compliance and in acquisition of new

dynamics of living. Among the youth, there is a sense of mutual help in that a “brother’s keeper” perspective is cultivated among peers through mutual accountability and support that is expected at all times. Nonetheless, individual accountability and responsibility is at the core of the safety, security, and learning the processes that drive the TC’s ability to thrive and meet the needs of the individuals who comprise it. The incorporation of the principle, “act as it,” empowers the individual to address daily living, choices, decisions, and reactions in a manner that represents what the person *wants to become* by acting, thinking, and feeling in ways that are different from their past lifestyle.

The Therapeutic Community model uses specific forms of addressing behavior. “Pull-ups” are verbal or written confrontations of negative behavior, “Learning Experiences” are consequences that will occur as a result of specific behavior, and “Push-Ups” are rewards for positive behavior. These forms of behavioral modification suggest a contrast to “discipline” that is applied to eliminate unwanted behavior. The TC model does sometimes include a combination of discipline and replacement, or required positive behaviors. The success of the Therapeutic Community depends upon the compliance of all participants within the community. Those individuals who do not comply, as demonstrated by breaking a cardinal rule, are placed in *alternate programming*, therefore limiting the negative impact of acting out behaviors on the collective group and the culture of the community.

Reportedly, it has taken years for some staff to “buy-in” to the Therapeutic Community model. The TC model, when first introduced prompted a “prove it to me” attitude in some staff. At the inspection, staff were overwhelmingly supportive of the TC model, based on their own observation of the positive results.

Housing Units

There are four youth dorms at the Mohican facility: Knox, Richland, Ashland, and Holmes. All dorms have essentially the same architecture, layout, and were equally clean. As in other youth facilities, youth artwork was found on numerous walls within the housing units. At the Mohican facility, the prevailing philosophy of interaction in the dorms is one that establishes and respects a specific chain of command, requires participation of all youth, and uses accountability as the dominant agent driving personal change.

Treatment teams are formed for each youth, and these teams meet on a scheduled basis within the youth’s dorm. The team makes decisions regarding the youth’s programming and relays the plans to the youth within the same day that the plan is determined.

The bed arrangement and mode of operation in the dorms is typical of a traditional dorm arrangement with bunks in rows, windows on the exterior walls, a locker and set of shelves for each youth, and fresh linens once a week and clean clothing from the laundry twice a week. Dorms have high ceilings and much natural light in both the bunk areas and in the large dayroom. Posters displaying positive thoughts and affirmations were included in the décor. One distinctive feature at the Mohican facility was the beautiful

wooded view from the dorm windows. The natural beauty of the Mohican forest creates an attractive visual component to the overall environment. As with other facilities, the youth follow a daily schedule, and may access games or tabletop activities to use at one of the many tables within the dayroom.

One component that appeared somewhat different from some other youth facilities is the incorporation of a 'community meeting' in the dorm prior to youth embarking on their individual daily schedules. The purpose of the community meeting was reportedly to 'energize the day.' After the meeting, youth proceed through their required school sessions and other classes.

Seclusion and Sick Rooms

To accommodate for illness and institutional safety, each dorm has a separate seclusion and sick room. Youth who are assigned to this room bring their own mattress, pillow, and blanket.

Reportedly, the seclusion room may be used for disciplinary purposes after all other means of intervention have been exhausted. It was further relayed that the time that youth spend in seclusion is normally short, with durations of 15 minutes to three hours.

Food Services

The dining hall was equally bright, with high ceilings and a full wall of windows. Youth pick up food trays from facility employees. A registered dietitian approves the menus.

Mail and Telephone Service

Youth are responsible for mailing costs in excess of two letters per week. No limit is placed on the volume of mail that youth can send or receive unless the amount of mail places an unreasonable burden on the facility. The correctional facility bears the cost of letters that its residents send to courts, attorneys, and the Department of Youth Services Central Office. All incoming mail is date-stamped upon receipt and is distributed within 24 hours. Due to safety and security concerns for youth, staff, facility, and the community, youth are not permitted to correspond with or receive correspondence from other incarcerated persons. However, youth may correspond with an immediate family member with permission from the Managing Officers of both correctional facilities. Youth at Mohican Correctional Facility are permitted one telephone call within the first 24 hours of arrival to re-establish contact with their family. Residents are permitted to make two collect calls per week. Additional calls are determined based on privilege level.

Visitation

The Mohican Superintendent has made a special effort to bring faith-based volunteers into the facility to offer contact to youth who are orphaned by their family while at the

facility. When applicable, visitation privileges may be denied or prohibited for one to two weeks as a disciplinary action. Requests for special visits must be presented to the youth's Social Worker, who approves or disapproves the visit. A Social Worker or Unit Manager supervises special visits.

Religious Services

Various religious services are offered, which include non-denominational chapel services, Sunday school, a local college's outreach program, sacraments from a local ministerial association, religious education classes, special religious-oriented events, and faith-based counseling services. The religions that are represented at the Mohican facility include Christianity, Islam, and Catholicism. Volunteers from religious organizations must complete an employment application and are subject to a personal and police background check prior to acceptance of their volunteer services.

Recreation

Youth are provided with one hour of large muscle exercise per day and one hour of leisure time or recreation per day on school days. Youth have access to three hours of recreation on non-school days. The gymnasium is equipped for basketball with bleachers and padded walls. Weight training is available in an adjacent weight room. The facility also provides two leisure activity rooms, two outdoor basketball courts, a sand volleyball court, a recreation field, and an activity room in each living unit for a variety of physical outlets as well as arts, crafts, and other specialty classes.

The recreation staff have an important role in coordinating some of the youth programs and community service projects.

Community Service

Community service projects are an essential part of a youth's program that allows youth to "give back" to the community. The ultimate goal of community service and youth programs is to engage youth in activities that benefit both the community and youth. Various forms of community service may be completed. Some projects benefit the outside community, while some benefit the internal community within the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility. Among recent community service opportunities was a Relay for Life event to raise funds for cancer research. At the Malabar Farm, youth may bale hay, handle maple syrup operations, or split wood. Throughout the year at the farm, there are the farm chores of feeding and watering the animals, collecting eggs, gardening, maintaining the lawn, and planting crops. In addition, there is the decorating of the historical house for Christmas and the barn restoration project. Still other community service may be provided by youth to local nursing homes, a Ronald McDonald House, the Red Cross, Adopt-A-Highway, as well as providing crafts, baked goods, home grown flowers, cleaning services, and light maintenance for a variety of local entities.

Through the Program Services component, the Community Building Team, which is comprised of specific individuals from the youth facility, the local community, and youth representatives from the Mohican facility, find ways to improve community projects and programs. Youth are given an opportunity to offer ideas for implementation of programs.

Youth program participation plays a role in advancing a youth through “phases” of their commitment by enabling them to accrue hours (like credit) of service time, which may favorably impact their eventual release. Youth are required to participate in a minimum of 26 hours of community service during their stay and must earn one hour of community service credit per week to move ahead. Youth average 2,500 hours per month of service.

Library

The library is a large, spacious area adjacent to the academic classrooms. At the on-site visit the environment was quiet and had the appearance of a traditional library with stacks of books available to youth. Large “positive thinking” posters were mounted on several walls, and a few youth were researching a subject as a group. The library network is connected to InfoOhio, which enables access to the same books and research sources that are available to youth in Ohio’s public schools. InfoOhio can be turned off or on by the librarian. Youth may find employment in library jobs at the Mohican facility.

Education

The Louis Bromfield High School is an accredited, secondary school that offers courses at grades 7-12. Educational programming is provided year-round within a 185-day school year. There are four 10-week quarters and four three-week inter-sessions.

The administration at Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility considers their school concept to be akin to an alternative school inasmuch as individual student achievement determines individual advancement, making progress self-paced.

All Education Administrators and Teachers are full-time employees. The student: teacher ratio averages 15:1 in regular classrooms, 7:1 in title classes, and 10:1 in special education classrooms. Severely Behaviorally Handicapped constitutes the most common issue facing special educators, with approximately 50 percent of youth having an Individual Education Plan. The required Individual Education Plan conferences are most commonly completed by phone due to distances between parents and youth.

The General Education Diploma (GED) is offered and completed by 99 percent of youth who take this program at the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility. Youth who have completed high school are placed in a Graduate Life Experiences program that uses class time within the high school and various operational areas within the institution, such as Food Service, Grounds-keeping/Landscaping, Administration, or Laundry as work sites. The goal of the Graduate Life Experiences Program is to learn job skills and behaviors so as to become employable.

The administrative goals at the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility for the instructional track include getting grants to fund online distance learning so that students may earn some post-secondary academic credits that could transfer into a college or university after the youth is released.

Automated Office Technology and Career-Based Instruction

The Automated Office Technology class is offered 2.5 hours per day, five days per week. In addition to Excel, the Micro-Soft Office curriculum includes studies in Word, Access, and Publisher. During the periodic Intersession days throughout the calendar year, PowerPoint is offered to interested youth. At the completion of studies in the Micro-Soft Office suite, a user test is offered to youth, with the possibility of earning Micro-Soft Office Certification.

The computer system at Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility includes the installation of Adobe. In addition, the network has been installed with the Ohio Career Information System, which is a system used by all Ohio high schools. This installation enables some career-based instruction.

Career-Based Intervention Class

The Career Based Intervention class is handled such that it is the youth's responsibility to learn to succeed in a Therapeutic Community. Youth take the class as a 'job' within the facility and are paid \$.50 per hour for up to 20 hours. Youth must apply for the paid positions as placements in Career Based Intervention class and are subsequently selected for inclusion. Once accepted into the class, youth are placed in various jobs within areas of the facility, including the laundry, school office, kitchen, and recreation.

In the least, students leave the Career-Based Intervention class with typing skills, an essential component of many other career skills. Youth complete the class in two and one half to three months and receive grades and credit for their work.

Medical Clinic

Youth are seen as needed by a contract Physician and a contract Dentist who make weekly visits to the facility. In addition, the Physician is always on call. Medical emergencies are handled at a nearby community hospital, Knox Community Hospital in Mount Vernon, Ohio or at Mansfield Community Hospital. Nurses conduct the first and basic assessment at sick call. Sign-up sheets for doctor appointments are available to youth in each of the dorms. The dentist is on site for appointments one day per week and usually spends six hours within the facility on appointment day.

The Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility received Medical Performance-Based Accreditation at 100% and received its first dual accreditation (ACA Standards plus ACA Performance-Based Standards for Medical) for the period 2005 through 2008. Mohican was the second of the DYS facilities and also second nationally to receive dual

accreditation. The first DYS facility to receive dual accreditation was Cuyahoga Hills Youth Correctional Facility.

In the clinic, youth handprints, which were stenciled in various colors of paint, outlined the perimeter of each wall.

Mental Health

One full-time Psychologist is available to meet with youth with issues such as depression or stress as requested by youth or staff. A contract Psychiatrist has scheduled visits to Mohican twice per month on alternate weeks, and is also available on call as needed. Risk assessments and follow-up are provided where there is an indication of suicidal thoughts or self-injurious behavior. Any staff may refer youth to the Psychologist, or the youth may self-refer.

The Psychologist also provides Anger Management Groups. Suicidal youth are seen per policy and assigned to the appropriate level of precaution. The Psychiatrist, in addition to making a diagnosis and managing any medication requirements, also provides consultation to Nursing, Psychology, and Social Service staff. Social Workers may also engage in counseling youth. It was relayed that the Social Workers may counsel 40 youth, but at the time of the on-site visit the Social Workers were seeing 38 youth. Youth on the mental health caseload at Mohican report to the Psychiatrist every two weeks for monitoring their status and progress regarding medication and programming. According to the staff communication, youth with more intensive psychological needs are assigned to Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility, while youth with less intensive needs are reportedly located at Indian River Correctional Facility.

Based on data of January 1, 2006 from the Department of Youth Services, there were 46 youth on the mental health caseload at the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility. Of that number, 30 were White, and 16 were Black.

Grievance Procedure

It was reported that the Youth Grievance Procedure at Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility operates in accordance with ODYS policy and offers youth a means to express their concerns either informally or formally to a Youth Grievance Committee for resolution. Youth may grieve any action, incident, living condition, dispute or the application of any policy or practice which they believe to be unjust, detrimental, or a violation of their rights. The exception is discipline administered in accordance with applicable policy. The Superintendent reviews the Committee's recommendation and submits a written decision to the youth. All grievances receive a response within 15 days, with the exception of any grievance determined to require an immediate response. Grievances warranting an immediate response are those that allege a serious threat to the health, well-being, safety, or security of a youth, staff, other person, or property. In such cases, a written response is issued within 48 hours of the grievance and all appropriate actions are taken to address the potential threat.

A review was made of the Ohio Department of Youth Service Grievance Summary for the months of September 2005 - December 2005, specifically grievances from the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility. General themes from the grievances include alleged favoritism by staff, racial bias/racial slurs by staff, withholding of hygiene products, and access to staff. Other significant grievances from youth included: building and water temperatures, phone calls, food portions, food quality, state clothing not warm enough for cold weather.

CIIC Database: Youth Contacts and Concerns

The Correctional Institution Inspection Committee had received only one contact from or regarding the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility as of January 20, 2006.

According to the CIIC database, there were six problems, issues or concerns received from or in regard to the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility from January 2005 through January 2006, compared to 164 concerns received as of January 20, 2006 system-wide. Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility ranked seventh in the number of concerns reported with six concerns.

Staff Concerns

At the inspection, staff reported concerns pertaining to school, admission screening, youth discipline, and second shift operations.

Regarding the school, facility staff alleged that the school was “out of control” citing numerous incidents. They alleged that the youth who want to participate in school feel unsafe due to the presence of disruptive youth. In communication from the Superintendent on February 8, 2006 it was relayed that improvements in the school over the past six months include:

- Planning and implementing an adult GED class. This reportedly had the effect of separating the older Mohican youth from the younger youth and has also reduced class sizes.
- More non-teaching, non-security staff respond to calls for assistance in the classrooms
- Increased visibility of security staff in the school area
- Change of DYS system-wide school discipline policy which increases the length of time of an “in-school suspension” from a minimum of 15 minutes to a minimum of the remainder of the class period from which the youth was removed.

According to the school Principal’s January 2006 monthly report, the number of class removals has decreased. The Principal also reported that the decrease in teachers’ absences and youth removals were the result of a full staff of teachers with smaller class sizes and the start up of the adult based GED program.

Regarding the admission criteria to the Therapeutic Community, staff previously alleged to the CIIC that youth were not properly screened prior to admission to the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility, and that youth were presenting mental health issues, gang affiliation and histories of violence. According to the Superintendent's recent communication, Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility's admission criteria includes documentation of a bona fide substance abuse problem suggesting residential treatment is appropriate. Most of their referrals reportedly come through the courts or the Department of Youth Services' Release Authority. Youth are reportedly routinely screened for inappropriate behavior at their sending institution prior to their final selection for the Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility.

The Superintendent also relayed that their treatment philosophy includes recognition that prior to treatment, youth may still be presenting behavior issues. Those are addressed once they arrive at the facility and become familiar with the Therapeutic Community methodology. When a youth continues to display lack of progress in treatment, and all therapeutic interventions have been exhausted, the administrative staff initiate a transfer to another facility. In 2005, there were 23 such youth transferred to a different facility.

According to the Superintendent, to help improve fidelity to the Therapeutic Community, over the past six months, the facility:

- Sponsored a "Lighting the Torch" training, co-mingling youth and staff in a re-examination of the elements of Therapeutic Community as each living unit came together for a day-long series of Therapeutic Community related activities.
- Contracted with George De Leon, Ph.D. and Therapeutic Community expert, for a two-day site visit with follow-up written report expected.
- Stepped up administrative presence on the living units
- Planned for an increase in Unit Administrators from two to four (one per dorm); Unit Administrator #3 will be on board February 19, 2006 and the posting for Unit Administrator #4 will go up shortly.

Regarding Youth Discipline, per communication received on February 8, 2006 from the Superintendent, they continue to use the Institution Disciplinary Committee for hearings on youth who are issued Youth Behavior Incident Reports. For youth whose behavior warrants seclusion, they are in support of that, as long as the continuum of response has been followed. All incidents involving the use of seclusion must be documented and reviewed by the Deputy Direct and by the Superintendent.

Regarding Second Shift Officer concerns, communication from staff in September 2005 previously relayed that most of the Juvenile Correctional Officers on Second Shift are new, in need of more training, or are fearful and do not know how to handle youth who act out. It was alleged that there is no Therapeutic Community occurring on Second Shift. It was further alleged that disciplinary paperwork is not being completed on incidents that occur, and the Unit Administrators are not following-up with the Officers to make sure that the paperwork is completed. In the recent communication with the Superintendent on the Second Shift Officer concerns, it was relayed that significant changes have

occurred over the past several months that have had a positive impact on training and retaining newer Juvenile Corrections Officers.

Incident Summary

During the nine-month period from September 2004 through May 2005, there were no offender/offender assaults with a weapon. However, from zero to five offender/offender assaults without a weapon were reported per month, with a total of 17 offender/offender assaults without a weapon in the period. All of the assaults were reported to be physical, and none were sexual. There were no offender/staff assaults with a weapon in the nine-month period.

The number of offender medical referrals as a result of injuries sustained in physical intervention in a fight or assault, ranged from zero to three per month, with a total of 11 such referrals in the nine-month period. No deaths occurred in the period.

There were no attempted or actual escapes reported in the period.

There were 149 substantiated grievances resolved in favor of the offender, ranging from 10 to 32 per month in the nine-month period. Resolutions pertained to snacks, commissary, mail, medical, food, religious, phone, clothing and haircuts.

OHIO RIVER VALLEY JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
On-Site Visit Date: August 23, 2005
CIIC Staff

Summary

The inspection of the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility was overall very favorable. The facility was impressive in cleanliness and orderliness. Single stand-out components of the overall operation include the Youth Council, the Intensive Programming Unit, a culture that positively engages both staff and youth and is reportedly cultivated by staff values, the Puzzle Room in Innovation Complex, the particularly nice gymnasium with a full indoor running track and mini-gyms in the housing complexes, and most especially the delivery of all educational services. Particularly noteworthy are the vocational programs and the visible showcasing of the accomplishments and skills of the youth in the various vocational tracks.

Grievances for March 2006

The most frequently grieved issue for March 2006 dealt with the denial or loss of “free” time and recreation time with 12 complaints. Second in frequency of grievances were complaints about food (quality, portions, denial) with nine complaints. Two grievance types each had seven complains: verbal intimidation or threat from staff, and personal property issues (loss, theft, trashed). Those with four complaints for the month were youth-on-youth assaults or threats, mail issues, hygiene products and bathroom privileges denied, undeserved receipt of ticket (YBIR), and isolation (lock-up).

Grievances for July 2005

For comparison, data shows that the most frequently grieved issue was staff domination on youth with nine grievances. The second, third, and fourth grieved issues, with three grievances each were staff assaults, denial of education or programming, and group reprimand for individual or group misbehavior.

Growth

The current average daily number of youth residing at the facility has averaged approximately 300 youth. As of December 2005, there was an increase in youth residents to take the total to 320 youth. As of the end of March 2006, there were 293 staff employed at the facility. The average length of stay for a youth is approximately ten months.

Since the construction and opening of the facility in 1997, buildings have been added to accommodate growth and program opportunities for residential youth. With the opening in 2003 of the newest, and third, housing complex, additional recreational options were made available to youth.

Culture

The culture at the facility is characterized by staff who often adopt an attitude and behaviors of a surrogate parent. It was relayed that staff have no gang affiliations and there is reportedly zero tolerance for staff gang affiliations. Some staff from the areas are reportedly property and community oriented and hold values that include faith and charity, which favorably impact staff attitude. Youth assessments are a collaborative step that includes the Unit Administrator, Treatment Teams, and Corrections Officers who are trained in completing assessments.

One observable indicator of a positive culture and effective youth-staff relationships is that until approximately a year and a half ago, youth were still walking with their hands behind their backs as required in the ODYS facilities. Some youth still maintain this behavior, but most have abandoned the posture.

Relevant to culture, the presence of youth gang membership and security threat group (STG) factions among youth was reported to have seen an increase at the facility. Staff relayed that some of the gangs are geographic in origin, but more of them are institutionally based. The juvenile facility reportedly does not maintain a full-time STG Coordinator, but the facility has a trained Corrections Officer for this assignment.

Youth Council

The Superintendent reportedly keeps striving for creative programming and raising the bar. Among the programs available to youth is the Youth Council, which includes two youth representatives from each unit. Youth Council develops a variety of events, activities, and opportunities for youth personal development. In the past, the Youth Council has assisted in surveys, created a Power Point presentation, created and carried out a youth fun day, created signs for the facility, and created products to be given to hospitals, nursing homes, and for use in decorating the Statehouse in Columbus.

Community Service, Connections, and Partnerships

Based on website data as of July 15, 2005, the youth at the facility had given back to the community a total of 27,233 hours in community service. Community partnerships are reportedly maintained through advisory boards and a presence of many local residents as employees within the facility. Through the hiring of numerous local residents, a sense of local commitment has been generated and in some cases, business partnerships have been established between the juvenile facility and private sector entities.

Employment and Staff Hiring

Staff reportedly perceive the facility as a good place to work; in fact, when the third complex was opened there were approximately 750 applicants for 75 positions. While the facility is budgeted for a full roster of employees, hiring is held at the 5.2% vacancy/attrition rate, which places a cap on employment and potentially slows the rate at

which vacancies are filled. Acquiring and retaining teachers, however, is a challenge because the special behavioral issues of the juveniles and the correctional setting are not as attractive to teachers as a classroom in a local school district. Some experienced staff relayed that the environment at the Ohio River Valley facility is much better than at other places.

Youth Population

The Ohio River Valley juvenile facility is the largest facility in number of residential youth. Staff reported a youth population of 308 at the inspection. From the period July 2005 through July 2006, the youth population at the Ohio River Valley facility ranged from a low of 296.7 to a high of 332.4, and the youth population for January 2006 averaged 319 juveniles.

Youth Characteristics

In prior years, youth predominantly came from south of Interstate 70, but over time that changed and currently youth come from all over Ohio. The population includes many low to moderate sex offenders and some high needs sex offenders. Youth in general population and the low-to-medium units are double bunked, but high-needs youth are single-bunked in mental health housing and in the high-need sex offender unit. Incentives are in place to motivate youth behavior, and many youth are employed in jobs that contribute to the operation of the facility.

The number of youth with gang or security threat group (STG) affiliations is reportedly disproportionately large at the Ohio River Valley youth facility compared to other youth facilities in Ohio. In the past, the Ohio River Valley facility was designated as the place where STG youth would be sent. There is no STG Coordinator at the facility; rather, a Juvenile Corrections Officer and a Social Worker share the responsibilities that a STG Coordinator would handle.

Youth Classification and Intensive Programming Unit

The Ohio River Valley facility uses three standard levels of youth classification. The classification model that the facility uses is one of several models that is being considered by DYS. The Ohio River Valley model begins by identifying the needs of a population, examining the means available within a facility to meet those needs, examining policies and procedures that may be affected, and focusing on staff training.

The system-wide challenge of dealing with youth who create increased degrees of turmoil has been addressed through the Intensive Programming Unit at the Ohio River Valley facility. The Intensive Programming Unit has become like a model for other facilities to emulate. Within the intensive programming framework, youth may progress incrementally by demonstrating skills that enable them to progress toward a less restrictive and more traditional environment. The IPU model includes the use of goals, phases, and a team of staff and professionals. A specific Reclassification Risk

Assessment, which includes a scoring system, is used to make a determination when a youth has earned the necessary score to advance through the phases.

Youth Incident Reports

The following table offers a snapshot of 98.3% of the types and quantity of youth incident reports between January 1, 2005 and December 7, 2005. Nearly 98.3% or 2,231 of the total 2,270 incident reports for the period fell into 24 incident types. The remaining 24 incident types, which are not shown in the table, accounted for only 1.7% or 39 reports of the total.

Table: Top 24 Incident Types at ORVJCF from January 1, 2005 to December 7, 2005

Type of Incident	Incidents	Percentage of Total Incidents
Physical response to resistance	744	32.78
Disruptive behavior	492	21.67
Use of mechanical restraints	254	11.19
Suicide watch	162	7.14
Youth placed in seclusion	116	5.11
Menacing threats	108	4.76
Youth taken off grounds non-routine	100	4.41
Attempted assault (youth on youth)	40	1.76
Simple assault (youth on youth)	37	1.63
Slight injury (youth)	29	1.28
Severe injury (youth)	24	1.06
Attempted assault (youth on staff)	21	1.00
Damage: state	16	.70
Simple assault (youth on staff)	15	.66
Other	10	.44
Serious assault (youth on youth)	12	.53
Slight injury (staff)	12	.53
Severe injury (staff)	9	.40
Attempted suicide	6	.26
Drugs: prescription	5	.22
Security issue	5	.22
Rape (youth on youth)	5	.22
Weapon: other	5	.22
Serious assault (youth on staff)	4	.18
Total Incidents in the top 24 types	2,231	98.3%
TOTAL	2,270	100%

‘RECLAIM’ Participation

Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility is engaged in the efforts of the Department of Youth Services to address the broad topic of behavior modification among its juvenile residents through the *RECLAIM* project, a collaborative venture with the University of Cincinnati. Staff training under the model has reportedly helped staff work with youth by using the recommended theoretical approach to understanding youth behavior.

Programming and Activities

Unique Intersession activities available to youth have been an ORV Idol competition and talent show, which was designed after ‘American Idol,’ a remote control car race and obstacle course competition, a Rosie Greer crocheted afghan service project, and the construction of wooden ‘dummies’ for the State Highway Patrol highway/driver safety demonstration.

Visitation Area

A unique component to the visitation area at the Ohio River Valley facility is a large bulletin board titled “Talk of the Wall” that gives youth and staff the opportunity to post notices and communications so as to enable ‘horizontal’ (between same-level recipients in other units) and ‘vertical’ (youth to staff and staff to youth) communication to transpire.

Gymnasium and Athletic Complex

The gymnasium at the Ohio River Valley facility includes a two-lane full track surrounding the perimeter of the gymnasium floor. In addition to athletic activities, the gymnasium is used for chess and pin-pong tournaments. Recreation therapy is available under the direction of a Recreation Administrator. Activities in the gym may be scheduled seven days a week from 7 to 9 pm. Adjacent to the gymnasium is a workout room and fitness center. In addition to the main large gymnasium, each housing unit contains a mini-gym; thus, the opportunities for physical exercise are more frequent at the Ohio River Valley facility than at some of the other youth correctional facilities.

General Education, High School, and Vocational Education

The Ohio Department of Youth Services Central Office has given acclaim to the delivery of educational services at Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility as ‘best practices’ among the facilities in the state.

The General Education Diploma (GED) is offered to youth at the facility. Youth who are 16 years or older may take the exam, however at the Ohio River Valley facility, exceptions may be made to allow a youth to take the exam if certain qualifications are met.

Tecumseh Charter High School is operated within Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility as a chartered public school in compliance with the requirements of the Ohio State Board of Education. The school is clean and modern; and entering the school gives the impression of leaving the correctional facility and entering a new and contemporary public school. Student portfolios are maintained for each student. It was stressed that students were going to be able to access a student network using the facility's computers in the future, so that networked educational coursework could be completed by youth while committed to the facility. Staff relayed that the high school curriculum at the Ohio River Valley facility includes several science courses, such as earth science, biology, and life sciences.

Classrooms are clean, neat, and orderly; and textbooks are up-to-date and in good condition. All classrooms have a private restroom and a sink. There is an absence of cameras in the hallways, which is reportedly offset by staff supervision during youth movement between classes.

In order to meet the needs of youth who qualify for special education services under PL 194.142, which accounts for approximately 50% of the students who are committed, special educational provisions are in place. Also, when appropriate to a youth's programming, speech therapy is provided to youth on-site. A Speech Therapist spends approximately 16 hours per week working with youth who qualify for these special services.

Unique to the Ohio River Valley facility is a 'time out room' where youth are sent if they disrupt a class in order to address their behavior and try to resolve the issue so that the youth may return to class, rather than be sent back to the unit and miss academic time.

The vocational programs operate using 100% federal money where matching funds are committed at the agency level. The vocational programs are seen as a strength among the curriculum offerings to youth and are visibly showcased at the facility. Reportedly, all of the vocational programs are designed to create and enhance the employability of youth.

Vocational programs include horticulture, masonry, carpentry, Automated Office Technology (AOT), and an electrical wiring program, which was under development at the time of the inspection. Growth of the vocational program has prompted expansion of the original academic campus. Buildings, some of which were constructed by the youth, have been added to accommodate the masonry and horticulture programs. Existing space was being converted to accommodate a residential wiring program designed to enable youth to pass certification and be employable as certified residential electricians. The masonry workshop consisted of a very large open room for the simultaneous construction of numerous masonry projects using artificial mortar blocks during the instruction of block laying fundamentals and construction of various types of foundations. Adjacent to the interior workshop, there is a classroom, teacher's office, first-aid and spill kits, and restroom. Through the completion of the horticulture program, youth may earn a national certification in garden/greenhouse expertise that is now required by Lowes and Home

Depot for employment in their garden centers. Horticulture students have completed at least two visible projects at the facility: a landscaped pond that includes a bridge and walkway, and an English garden with a fountain located outside the library window. In addition to basic units of instruction, the curriculum for automated office technology students includes preparation for students to acquire Microsoft Office certification. As recent as December 2005, one student passed the Microsoft Word 2002 component of the test at the 'expert' level.

Housing Units

Youth housing is arranged in ten units located within three complexes: Liberation, Innovation, and Aviation. The architecture of the units is much as that found in other juvenile facilities with a large open central area or dayroom and youth rooms arranged around the exterior perimeter opposite the officer desk, staff offices, a youth temporary separation room, administrative room(s), and bulletin board. No cameras are in operation in the day room, rather officers wear a personal monitor belt that is wired to a 'spider' tracking system.

Liberation Complex is the newest of the complexes and houses the most troubled or negatively behaving youth. Youth in this complex have single wet cells. Behavior assessments are administered in three two-week phases to determine placement in the Liberation Complex and into an Intensive Programming Unit (IPU).

Separate from intensive behavioral programming, staff watch for youth with gang affiliations or security threat group (STG) involvement. Reportedly, at the Ohio River Valley facility, there is no specific and comprehensive 'gang' assessment, such as that provided at the Marion facility; however, if it is determined that a youth needs to be assessed, the assessment tool may be requested from Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. If the youth is assessed high for gang involvement, he may be transferred to the Marion facility for placement in the six-week STAR program. If he is assessed low, he may remain at Ohio River Valley and be placed in Grant Unit within Liberation Complex for Special Management Programming. The Ohio River Valley facility and the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility coordinate youth transfers between the two youth facilities.

While the Grant Unit has been likened to the STAR Unit in Marion, the youth in Grant at Ohio River Valley facility are not psychotic and considered to be less disruptive than those who are placed in STAR at Marion. Ohio Department of Youth Services staff relayed that 5% of all youth account for 50-60% of the offenses committed.

The environment within Grant Unit is intensive rather than punitive. "Intensive" is used as it relates to the ratio of staff to youth per unit. The ratio of staff to youth is typically two staff to three youth. Visual monitoring of youth is a key component to unit operations. Continuous and comprehensive contact affords increased opportunities to engage in constructive interaction. In that regard, the Ohio River Valley facility methods encompass many good correctional practices that are not in operation elsewhere in the state. The unit uses a progressive disciplinary process, which gives staff a successive

system of disciplinary options in an expected order. While in Grant Unit, youth do not leave and attend classes with other students; rather academic programming is brought to them on the unit. The benefits of placing youth in the Grant Unit were identified as a reduction in the number of incidents, including injuries prompting worker compensation claims, and a reduction in Use of Force reports.

The intensive programming that youth receive in Liberation Complex is often one-on-one treatment, and reportedly is a pivotal factor in youth behavior modification. Staff credit creative incentives and programming as having a favorable effect on youth transformation.

Within Liberation Complex, youth with mental illnesses are housed in McKinley Unit. Youth receive psychological services with attention focused on a smaller number of youth than one would see in general population. The unit functions much as a Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) in the adult correctional system.

Also within Liberation Complex, the Hayes Unit houses youth who are high-needs sex offenders. Youth in the Hayes Unit receive a program in three phases: breaking the deviant cycle, victim empathy, and relapse prevention.

Youth in Innovation Complex are classified as general population youth who are low to moderate sex offenders. A distinctive feature of the Innovation Complex is a separate puzzle room that serves as an area where puzzles of all themes and sizes may be completed. All youth may participate. Once completed, the puzzles are glued (only by staff) to form artwork that is subsequently framed and then donated to entities, like nursing homes or fire departments, as a charitable venture. The puzzles are ordered from a variety of companies.

The Aviation Complex, which includes three units, provides housing for general population youth. Youth in this complex are typically double-bunked. The reported philosophy of one staff in one of the units, Wright Unit, was to keep youth busy with assignments and to be firm, fair, and consistent in dealing with youth.

Youth Communication

Among the comments received from youth that dealt specifically with issues at the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility, there were five that pertained to Use of Force, which were all of a negative nature. There were approximately 18 other comments from youth. Of the 18 remaining comments, nine comments were complimentary of the programming, supervision, education, safety, and security at the Ohio River Valley facility. Two comments were negative or critical of some aspect of facility operations, and seven comments had nothing to do with the Ohio River Valley facility, but related to other youth facilities or issues.

SCIOTO JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
On-Site Visit Date: August 9, 2005
Inspection Dates: December 21, 2005 and May 25, 2006
Representative Michael DeBose

The Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility is the DYS reception center for all girls and all boys committed to the Department of Youth Services. While the boys are transferred to other DYS facilities after reception processing, nearly all of the girls remain at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for the duration of their period of incarceration. A small, 24-bed substance abuse treatment center, Freedom Center, is located in close proximity to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, and serves as the only other DYS facility for female youth.

Population

Of the total 331 youth at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility in November 2006, the average population consisted of 248 males and 83 females. From January through November, the male population at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranged from a low of 199.3 in January to a high of 260.1 in October 2006. The female population ranged from a low of 83 in November 2006 to a high of 106.4 in May 2006.

Mental Health Caseload

System-wide, DYS youth on the mental health caseload ranged from a low of 377 in October 2006 to a high of 483 in August and September of 2005, with a monthly average of 435 in the period. Based on the November 2006 DYS population of 1,826, the average mental health caseload comprised 23.8 percent of the total DYS population.

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranks fourth highest in number of youth on the mental health caseload. They have a monthly average of 55.6 on the mental health caseload, comprising 16.8 percent of their population. The number of youth on the caseload consisted of 46.4 females and 9.2 males per monthly average from August 2005 through October 2006, (excluding January 2006 for which data was not submitted.) The number of females ranged from a low of 37 on the mental health caseload in August 2006 to a high of 54 in March 2006. The number of male youth at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility on the mental health caseload ranged from a low of only two in April 2006 to a high of 20 in September 2005. Based on the November population of 331 youth, the 55.6 average number of youth on the mental health caseload comprises 16.8 percent of their combined male and female population.

Using the reported 83 female population at Scioto JCF in November 2006, the monthly average of 46.4 females on the mental health caseload comprises a disturbing 55.9 percent of the female population. While all male and all female youth committed to DYS are assigned to the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for reception processing, the female youth remain at Scioto for the duration of their commitment, except those few

who are later assigned to the 20-bed Freedom Center, which provides substance abuse treatment.

Of the Scioto JCF male population in November 2006, the 9.2 monthly average of males on the mental health caseload comprises only 3.71 percent of the male population. The low number and percentage of male youth on the mental health caseload may be due to the fact that the male youth at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility are all in reception status, at which time assessment occurs.

In follow-up communication from DYS staff, January 2006 mental health caseload data was submitted. System-wide there were 575 youth on the mental health caseload in the month, with 66 total at Scioto JCF, all of which were females. In the above referenced data including January 2006 data, Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility had a monthly average of 56.27 youth on the mental health caseload. The monthly average for female youth at Scioto JCF was 47.67, while the monthly average for male youth at Scioto JCF was 9.21 youth on the mental health caseload. The total monthly average on the mental health caseload system-wide was 496.78, ranging from .93 at Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek to a high of 101.6 at Ohio River Valley JCF. Scioto JCF ranked fourth highest, exceeded by Circleville, Cuyahoga Hills and Ohio River Valley JCF.

Youth Self-Injuries

In all, there were 65 youth self injuries in DYS facilities from January through June 2006, with the largest number at the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility with 33, comprising 50.8 percent of all self-injuries. Circleville and Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facilities rank second highest in number of youth self-injuries, with seven incidents each, followed by Marion and Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facilities with six incidents each.

Suicide Watches

With the high number of suicide watches documented at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, and its much lower ranking system-wide in actual youth self-injuries, it may be that frequent use of suicide watches is a significant factor in the resulting lower number of actual self-injuries. If that is correct, the high number of actual self-injuries at Ohio River Valley may be correlated to less frequent usage of suicide watches at that facility.

System-wide, 455 suicide watches were documented in the six-month period from January through June 2006 in DYS facilities. The Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility had the highest number of suicide watches with 222 in the period, comprising 48.8 percent of all suicide watches in the system. Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility ranks second system-wide with 65 such watches, followed by Ohio River Valley and Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facilities with 57 and 54 respectively.

System-wide, there were 53 suicide observations documented from January through June 2006 in DYS facilities. Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility has the highest number of suicide observations with 35, comprising 66 percent of all such suicide observations.

Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility ranks second highest in the number of suicide observations in the period with eight, followed by Freedom Center with five such suicide observations in the period. Again, the high usage of suicide watches and observations at Scioto may be a positive factor that may account for its lower ranking in terms of actual youth self-injuries. Note that Ohio River Valley had zero suicide observations, yet the highest number of youth self-injuries among all facilities.

Use of Force

System-wide, there were 2,487 response to resistance incidents in the six month period from January through June 2006. Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranks first as having the highest number of such incidents with 528, comprising 21.2 percent of the system-wide incidents. In the 180-day period, an average of 2.9 use of force incidents occurred each day at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Scioto JCF also ranks first among the other DYS facilities in having the largest population, with a total of 331 for November 2006, comprising 18.1 percent of the DYS youth population.

Of the nearly 2,500 use of force incidents system-wide in the six month period, only three incidents reportedly resulted in youth injury, with one each at Circleville, Cuyahoga and Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. Reportedly, in spite of Scioto JCF having the largest number of use of force incidents in the system, a total of 528 in the period, *not one incident reportedly resulted in injury.*

Use of Force Policy Review

An effort was made to research DYS written materials on use of force to determine the extent to which there are clear directives and guidelines to staff on the subject. For example, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has three Administrative Rules on the subject: AR 5120-9-01 Use of Force, AR 5120-9-02 Use of Force Report and Investigations, and AR 5120-9-03 Inmate Complaints of Use of Force Where No Use of Force Report Has Been Made. The Department of Youth Services has no Administrative Rule on Use of Force or Response to Resistance.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has three policies corresponding to the above referenced Administrative Rules: 63-UOF-01 Use of Force, 62-UOF-02 Use of Force Report, and 63-UOF-03 Use of Force Investigation. In all, DRC has 30 pages of specific directives and guidelines for staff in the form of Administrative Rules and DRC policies on the Use of Force.

The only written directive from the Department of Youth Services on the subject was identified as Standard Operating Procedure 301.05.02 titled Physical Response – Reporting and Documentation Requirements effective April 15, 2002. It refers to policy 301.05.02, Management of Resistant Youth Behavior, which reportedly “establishes standard procedural guidelines for reporting and documentation when physical response is used.” However, repeated efforts to locate the policy were unsuccessful. This is just one of the many good reasons why DYS needs to begin the process of creating Administrative Rules on major areas of institutional operations, which would definitely

include the Use of Force. DYS policies and Standard Operating Procedures are not widely accessible as are Administrative Rules. If the CIIC has difficulty accessing the written SOP or policy, surely the DYS employees who need to know the policies and procedures may also have difficulty accessing the materials. The DYS Standard Operating Procedure on Physical Response clearly falls short of providing guidance, guidelines and directives to the line staff who are most apt to use force. It clearly excludes assurance, assignment of responsibilities and accountability on use of force investigations.

In follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was relayed that:

The policy and associated standard operating procedures are attached. Our policies are available to all staff on the department's Intranet, as well as provided in hard copy during new employee pre-service and mandatory annual in-service for line staff in the institutions. They are also distributed to all personnel attending mandated training when revisions are made. Although our policies are not available to the general public, Deputy Director Andrea Morbitzer and her Administrative Assistant, as well as Legislative Liaison Nathan Miner, routinely provide these documents upon request. In addition, we are working on getting the CIIC's internet policy page back up and running. Copies of the new Seclusion and Response to Resistance Policy have been included in this information.

Staff on Youth Assaults

DYS data on substantiated staff on youth assaults from January through June 2006 shows that there were 10 such incidents system-wide, ranging from none at three facilities (Freedom Center, Cuyahoga Hills and Circleville JCFs), to a high of three each at Mohican and Scioto JCFs. Indian River JCF ranked second highest, with two. There was one incident each at Ohio River Valley and Marion JCFs. In follow-up communication from DYS staff, on their further review of the data, it was reported that the ten incidents ranged from none at four facilities (Freedom Center, Cuyahoga Hills, Circleville and Ohio River Valley JCFs), two at each of two facilities (Marion and Indian River JCFs), and three at each of two facilities (Scioto and Mohican JCFs).

Injuries by Staff

DYS data on the number of injuries inflicted by staff from January through June 2006 shows that a total of five injuries were documented system-wide in the period, ranging from none at three facilities (Ohio River Valley, Mohican and Freedom Center) to one each at five facilities, including Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. In follow-up communication from DYS staff, their further review of the data revealed that only one injury was documented and substantiated system-wide in the period. This incident occurred at Cuyahoga Hills JCF. The other facilities had no substantiated injuries inflicted by staff during this period.

Youth on Staff Assaults

In the six-month period from January through June 2006, a total of 159 substantiated youth on staff assaults occurred system-wide in DYS facilities. The incidents ranged from zero at Freedom Center, to a high of 57 at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. Scioto JCF ranked second highest with 33 substantiated youth on staff assaults. Circleville JCF had the second lowest number of such assaults with six.

However, in follow-up communication from DYS staff, after their further review of their statistics, it was reported that in the six-month period from January through June 2006, a total of 177 substantiated youth on staff assaults occurred system-wide in DYS facilities. The incidents ranged from zero at the Ohio River Valley JCF, to a high of 57 at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. Scioto JCF ranked second highest with 33 substantiated youth on staff assaults. Circleville JCF had the third lowest number of such assaults with four. The breakdown is provided below:

FACILITY	YOUTH ON STAFF ASSAULTS
Marion JCF	57
Scioto JCF	33
Cuyahoga Hills JCF	26
Indian River JCF	15
Mohican JCF	15
Circleville JCF	4
Freedom Center	1
Ohio River Valley JCF	0
 TOTAL	 177

Youth on Youth Assaults

In the six-month period from January through June 2006, there were 800 substantiated youth on youth assaults system-wide, ranging from none at Freedom Center, to 256 at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranked second highest, with 165 substantiated youth on youth assaults, comprising 20.6 percent of such assaults system-wide.

However, in follow-up communication from DYS staff, after their further review of their data, it was reported that in the six-month period from January through June 2006, there were 874 substantiated youth on youth assaults system-wide, ranging from none at Freedom Center, to 277 at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranked second highest, with 168 substantiated youth on youth assaults, comprising 19.22 percent of such assaults system-wide. The breakdown is provided below:

FACILITY	YOUTH ON YOUTH ASSAULTS
Cuyahoga Hills JCF	277
Scioto JCF	168
Indian River JCF	154
Mohican JCF	103
Marion JCF	66
Circleville JCF	32
Ohio River Valley JCF	2
Freedom Center	0
TOTAL	874

Off Grounds Non-Routine Medical Treatment

DYS data shows that system-wide, 216 youth were taken off grounds for non-routine medical treatment in the six-month period from January through June 2006. Data ranges from only five youth at the Freedom Center to a high of 60 youth at the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility. Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranks second highest system-wide with 44 youth taken off grounds for non-routine medical treatment.

Youth Injuries

DYS data from January through June 2006 shows that there were 203 youth injuries in the period system-wide, ranging from one at Freedom Center to a high of 65 at Ohio River Valley JCF. Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranked fourth with 26 injuries, below Mohican, Cuyahoga and Ohio River Valley.

Accidental injuries from recreation totaled 83 in the six-month period system-wide, ranging from zero at Freedom Center to a high of 23 at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. Ohio River Valley JCF ranked second highest at 20, followed by Mohican and Scioto JCF, both with 11 each, ranking third system-wide.

Injuries inflicted by other youth system-wide in the six-month period totaled 52, from zero at Freedom Center and Circleville JCF, to a high of 14 at Ohio River Valley JCF. Cuyahoga Hills JCF ranked second highest with 13. Scioto JCF reported four injuries inflicted by other youth, the third lowest of all the facilities.

Drug Tests

Statistics were compiled using data from the Ohio Department of Youth Services Urine Drug Testing Log. The information was gathered between January 3, 2006 and June 30, 2006. According to the report, each youth is counted as often as he or she is tested. The numbers in this report are higher than those in the quarterly report where each youth is counted only once. The results appear promising. Only six of the 738 tests returned a positive result. This is equal to approximately .8%, which is obviously incredibly low.

While Freedom Center, a residential drug and alcohol treatment center, had the highest number of positive results (positive for THC), two of the tests belong to one youth who

subsequently retested negative after her first positive screen. The second Freedom Center youth who tested positive had been readmitted to ODYS from the community within 45 days previous to this testing. According to DYS staff, this is not an unusual amount of time for this chemical to stay in the system. Additionally, DYS has reportedly documented discussions with the drug-test vendor; Freedom Center administrators found they had received a large quantity of faulty tests. The other three positive tests, one from Indian River JCF, one from Ohio River Valley JCF, and one from Scioto JCF, were positive for Amphetamines. According to DYS staff, during the respective testing periods, these youth were taking prescription medications that break down to amphetamines in the human body.

Youth Handbook

The Youth Handbook for the Male Reception Center at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility is distributed to male youth upon arrival. The handbook was obtained while on-site in 2005 and has been reviewed.

Youth Accountability, Expectations and Discipline

Youth expectations are also included in the handbook. These expectations include such things as maintenance of hygiene and personal space. The expectations also include several rules, which are mentioned in other categories such as no abusive language, controlling your conduct, possessing items not issued by staff, etc.

Logically, the section following Rule Categories I and II is that which deals with rule violations. The Youth Behavior Incident Report (YBIR) is explained as a document that is issued when a violation of Youth Conduct Rules occurs, and disciplinary sanctions are given. According to the handbook, the youth may be given a specific assignment to complete in addition to immediate or extended seclusion. If a staff member believes a youth is unable to comply with the sanctions, he or she will be placed in “time out” cooling down, or seclusion until they are able to participate in the normal disciplinary procedure.

According to the DYS policy on Seclusion, it is the Department’s goal to limit the use of seclusion. The policy states it should only be used as a last resort after other less restrictive interventions have been used to manage youth behavior. This policy defines seclusion as the involuntary confinement of a youth alone in his or her room or in a safe-room not to exceed 24 hours. Extended and room seclusion also exist within this policy. Extended seclusion is similar to seclusion except the period of time can exceed 24 hours. On the other hand, room seclusion cannot exceed one hour. Youth placed in seclusion are to be checked by staff every 15 minutes and shall be visited at least once a day by personnel from administrative, clinical, social work, religious or medical units. Those placed in seclusion shall be afforded living conditions and privileges approximating those available to the general population. Exceptions must be justified by clear and substantiated evidence. A youth is removed from seclusion once he or she demonstrates

they are no longer a threat to themselves, others or the institution. The Unit Administrator or the Operations Manager must approve the release.

Number of Incidents Youth were placed in Seclusion from January through June 2006 by Facility	
FACILITY	NUMBER
Indian River JCF	1,394
Scioto JCF	1,165 (23.6%)
Cuyahoga Hills JCF	660
Circleville JCF	502
Ohio River Valley JCF	444
Marion JCF	400
Mohican JCF	366
Freedom Center	7
TOTAL	4,938

The Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility ranks second among DYS facilities in the use of seclusion during the period from January through June 2006. The number of incidents at Scioto, including the Reception Center, which required the use of seclusion comprised nearly 24 percent of the system-wide usage.

Sexual Assault

Lastly, the handbook contains an informational handout on sexual assault. The handout first provides a definition of sexual assault. It defines sexual assault as, “any contact between the sex organ of one person and the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person, or any intrusion of any part of the body of one person, or of any object into the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person, by the use of force or threat of force.” It goes on to say that sexual assault affects everyone either directly or indirectly and that DYS has zero tolerance for sexual abuse and assault. There is also information provided on how to avoid rape and what to do if sexually assaulted. This section advises youth to report the attack to staff immediately. It also instructs youth not to shower, brush teeth, use the restroom or change clothes, because evidence may be destroyed. If a youth witnesses an assault or is assaulted but is unwilling to report it to unit staff, they are advised to file a grievance, write a kite, or request to see the Chaplain, Youth Advocate or Victim Services Representative.

The handout also explains to youth that if they sexually assault another they will be issued a Youth Behavioral Incident Report and an investigation will take place. The Highway Patrol will be notified and a youth who commits an assault will face consequences from DYS as well as additional criminal charges.

DYS Sexual Assault Policy

The information on sexual abuse and assault is provided to juveniles as established by DYS policy. According to DYS, this policy was created to ensure that sexual activity between staff and juveniles, volunteers or contract personnel and juveniles, regardless of consensual status, is prohibited and subject to administrative and criminal disciplinary sanctions. Within this policy, there are procedures established for sexual assault and/or sexual victimization screening at reception and at the parent institution.

All juveniles are to be screened within 24 hours of arrival at the facility. These screenings are done to determine potential vulnerabilities or tendencies of acting out with sexual behavior. According to the policy, after the screening, housing assignments will be made accordingly. While these assessments were in place at SJCF there was expressed concern that victims and predators were being housed in the same pod. This policy also contains instructions on reporting an allegation of assault and medical responsibilities following an allegation of sexual assault. According to this policy, Annual Vulnerability Assessments shall be conducted at each institution as organized and scheduled by the PREA Coordinator.

Sexual Assault Committee

A noticeable difference between the DYS policy on sexual assault and that of DRC is the absence of a Sexual Assault Committee (SAC), which has reportedly proven to be extremely effective in the DRC institutions. This committee makes recommendations for inmates who have been sexually assaulted or have otherwise been referred by the warden due to a significant concern about risk of sexual victimization. The committee members are designated by the warden and include the Deputy Warden of Operations, Institutional Investigator, Victim Support Person, Deputy Warden of Special Services and any other staff members who may have relevant input.

Upon an attempted or completed sexual assault, the victim is housed in a designated safe housing environment until the Sexual Assault Committee evaluates them. By the end of the next business day after the reported sexual assault, the victim support person meets with the victim to conduct a preliminary assessment of the inmate's current safety needs. The victim support person also reviews the inmate's privilege level to assure they are as consistent with the inmate's prior privilege level as possible. Within seven days the Sexual Assault Committee Chair convenes a meeting to review all documentation of those who interviewed the victim. Within eight days the Sexual Assault Committee makes a recommendation to the warden regarding housing assignment, program assignment, follow-up and overall management of the victim. This committee plays a crucial role in the adult system.

According to DYS staff:

ODYS uses Treatment Teams on each unit. The Unit Administrator and treatment team are notified regarding youth who have been classified as victims or sexual predators. The Treatment Team maintains the quality assurance of that. ODYS' population numbers are not as high as ODRC inmate numbers, and our Treatment Teams are able to manage information about individuals who are housed under their supervision. They know their kids. We also have a comprehensive system of reporting.

System-wide, there were 38 substantiated "Other" sexual incidents from January through June 2006, with only two such incidents at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Such incidents ranged from zero at Freedom Center, one each at Cuyahoga Hills and Mohican JCF to a high of 16 at Indian River JCF. Circleville JCF ranked second system-wide with 12 such "Other" sexual incidents in the period.

According to follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was reported that on further review of the statistics, it was found that system-wide, there were 32 substantiated "Other" sexual incidents from January through June 2006, with four such incidents at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Such incidents ranged from zero at Ohio River Valley JCF, one each at Cuyahoga Hills and Mohican JCF, to a high of 14 at Indian River JCF. Circleville JCF ranked second system-wide with eight such "Other" sexual incidents in the period.

There were 16 youth on youth sexual assaults (sexual misconduct) from January through June 2006 system-wide, ranging from none at Mohican and Cuyahoga Hills JCF to a high of five at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, comprising 31.3 percent of all such assaults. However, in follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was reported that there were six substantiated youth on youth incidents classified as sexual imposition from January through June 2006 system-wide, with two incidents each at Scioto, Circleville, and Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility.

System-wide, there were only four cases of reported youth on youth sexual assault (forced sexual misconduct) from January through June 2006, with five facilities reporting zero incidents in the six-month period. However, according to follow-up communication from DYS staff, system-wide there were no substantiated allegations of rape from January through June 2006.

The creation of the Sexual Assault Committee within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation has reportedly helped to protect the interests of the victim, and is believed to be responsible for the increased number of reports of such incidents in Ohio prisons.

Number of Youth on Youth Sexual Assault (Forced Sexual Misconduct) from January through June 2006 by Facility	
FACILITY	NUMBER
Ohio River Valley JCF	2
Circleville JCF	1
Marion JCF	1
Cuyahoga Hills	0
Freedom Center	0
Indian River JCF	0
Mohican JCF	0
Scioto JCF	0
TOTAL	4

System-wide, there were four cases of substantiated youth on staff sexual incidents in the six-month period from January through June 2006, ranging from no incidents at Scioto JCF and five other facilities, to a high of three incidents at Indian River JCF. One youth on staff sexual incident occurred at the Ohio River Valley JCF. However, in follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was relayed that system-wide, there were four substantiated cases of youth on staff sexual incidents in the six month period from January through June 2006, ranging from no incidents at Scioto JCF and six other facilities, to a high of four incidents at Indian River JCF.

According to DYS data, there was no substantiated staff on youth sexual incident in the entire DYS system in the six-month period from January through June 2006.

Programs for Females

Thinking for a Change: This 12-week program consists of two parts: The first part of the curriculum teaches active listening skills. The second deals with understanding the feelings of others. These skills are put to the test through role-playing and scenarios. The program also teaches problem solving, goal setting and making choices. Each youth must practice each skill to move on to the next lesson.

Beyond Trauma: A Healing Journey for Women and Girls: This program has psychological and educational components. Its goal is to teach females the definition, process and impact of trauma, as well as, coping skills and emotional awareness.

KIDS: This 15-week program for girls with moderate substance abuse issues includes girls who are not eligible for the rehabilitation program at Freedom Center due to being a high AWOL risk, due to mental health problems, or severe medical issues.

Adolescent Recovery Programs: This program is provided for girls with low intensive and high intensive substance abuse issues. The girls with low intensive issues attend an adolescent recovery program one day per week. Those females with high intensive issues attend a program modeled after the chemical dependency intervention curriculum three days per week. AA groups are offered to the entire population twice a week.

Special Needs: Girls who have mental health issues or who are developmentally challenged are housed in this unit, which has a maximum capacity of 20 girls. These girls receive more intensive individual mental health therapy. A select number of girls also receive Dialectical Behavior Therapy.

Transition Program: Learning Opportunities for Tomorrow: This unit based program focuses on independent living skills. The unit houses a maximum of 28 girls who must be 17 or older and working on or have received their high school diploma or GED. Each girl must undergo the Case Life Skills Assessment to identify her level of competency in independent living skills. All girls are required to live as a family unit with elected leaders, assigned chores, monthly activities planned by girls, maintenance of a budget, household maintenance, meal planning/preparation, peer mediation, career planning and parenting. There is a minimum three-month stay required. However, the longer the girl is in the program the greater opportunity she has to practice independent living skills.

Victim Awareness: This 11-week program is scheduled on a rotating basis, determined by the Office of Victim Services (OVS). The girls spend the first ten weeks identifying who victims are and which of the four types of victim impact come into play with specific offender behaviors. During this ten-week period, each female must complete a homework assignment and an initial victim apology letter, which is given to OVS for processing.

During the final week of the program, members of OVS and victims who volunteer present a Victim Impact Panel. This allows the class a chance to hear about how specific crimes affect individual victims and the ensuing ripple impact that surrounds them. Each of the 11 sessions lasts about 90 minutes and involves about 20 youth. At the end of the program each youth graduates as minimal, satisfactory or excellent.

Work Programs: Work programs are available for females who have obtained their diploma or GED. Work sites are available in recreation, storeroom, ingredient room, office assistant, cosmetology and custodial.

Sex Offender Programming: These programs are offered individually with an assigned Social Worker. The Psychology Assistant is currently facilitating a sex offender group.

Male Reception Programming

Phase I: Intake Process: Youth Arrival, intake packet review, Mental Health Assessment, Medical Assessment, Education Assessment, Youth Orientation

Phase II: Assessment Process, Social Services Assessments

Phase III: Integration Process: Living Unit Assignment, Education Services, Medical Services, Mental Health Services, Religious Services, Substance Abuse Education, Visitation/Family Contact, Planned Release Date/Projected Discharge Date Review, Reception Assessment Summary Completion

Phase IV: Transfer Process: Institutional Transfers

CIIC Database: Contacts and Concerns

From October 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004, the CIIC received only six contacts from or in regard to DYS facilities. Subsequently, from January 1, 2005 to December 7, 2006, the CIIC received 114 contacts from or in regard to juveniles in ODYS facilities. The 114 system-wide contacts consisted of DYS facility staff, youth, and family of youth. Of the 114 contacts, the largest number of contacts are from or in regard to the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility with 45, comprising 39.5 percent of all DYS contacts as shown below.

**Number of Contacts received by CIIC
January 1, 2005-December 7, 2006 by Institution**

INSTITUTION	CONTACTS
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility	45 (39.5%)
Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility	16
Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility	14
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility	14
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility	10
Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility	6
Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility	5
Other (Detention Centers)	3
Light House Youth Center in Paint Creek	1
TOTAL	114

The 114 system-wide contacts received by CIIC from or in regard to DYS facilities relayed 390 problems, issues or concerns, which were logged into the CIIC database. The largest number of reported concerns by far pertained to the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, with 166 reported concerns, comprising 42.6 percent of the system-wide concerns.

**Number of Reported Concerns Regarding DYS Facilities Relayed to CIIC
January 1, 2005-December 7, 2006 by Institution**

INSTITUTION	CONCERNS
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility	166 (42.6%)
Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility	55
Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility	44
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility	35
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility	32
Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility	24
Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility	18
Light House Youth Center in Paint Creek	9
Other (Detention Centers)	7
TOTAL	390

The 390 system-wide concerns relayed from or in regard to DYS facilities fall into 29 subject categories used by CIIC to log contacts and reported concerns from prisons, juvenile facilities and jails. The 390 system-wide concerns range from only one concern each regarding security classification, personal property, job assignments, inmate groups,

and commissary, to a high of 70 in the category titled, “Use of Force/Inappropriate Supervision.” The category comprises 17.9 percent of all reported concerns system-wide and consists of the following subcategories: Use of force with no report, abusive language, racial or ethnic slurs, conduct report for no reason, intimidation/threats, retaliation for filing grievance, lawsuit or for voicing complaints, privacy violations, other.

The second highest category of system-wide reported concerns fall into the category titled, “Staff Accountability,” with a total of 64 reported concerns comprising 16.4 percent of all reported concerns. The category consists of the following subcategories: Access to staff, failure to perform job duties, failure to respond to communication, failure to follow policies, other.

Health Care concerns totaled 44, comprising 11.3 percent of all reported concerns and ranking as the third largest category of reported concerns. The Health Care category includes the following subcategories: Access/delay in receiving medical care, improper/inadequate medical care delay/denial of medication, medical records, eye glasses, forced medical testing, medical transfer, prosthetic device, medical co-pay, medical restriction, medical aide/device, other.

Concerns by Subject

The 45 contacts received from or regarding Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility relayed 166 problems, issues or concerns in the communication to CIIC. The largest category of concern is Staff Accountability with 27 reported concerns, followed closely by the Use of Force/Inappropriate Supervision category with 25 reported concerns. There were 19 complaints pertaining to Health Care. These three top categories comprise 42.8 percent of the reported concerns from or in regard to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility.

The Staff Accountability concerns from Scioto JCF comprise 42.2 percent of the total system-wide concerns in the category. The Force/Supervision concerns from Scioto JCF comprise 35.7 percent of the total system-wide concerns in the category. The Health Care concerns from the Scioto JCF comprise 43.2 percent of the system-wide concerns in the category.

**Number of Reported Concerns from or in regard to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility
Received by CIIC from January 1, 2005 to December 7, 2006
by Subject Category**

CONCERN	NO. OF CONCERNS
Staff Accountability	27 (16.3%)
Force/Supervision	25 (15.1%)
Health Care	19 (11.5%)
Psychological/ Psychiatric	12 (7.2%)
Other	10
Institution Assignment	9
Facilities Maintenance	8
Discrimination	7
Protective Control	7
Non-Grievable Issues	6
Housing Assignments	5
Telephone	5
Food Service	4
Education/ Vocational Training	3
Mail/Package	3
Recovery Services	3
Religious Services	3
Records	2
Visiting	2
Recreation	2
Job Assignments	1
Laundry	1
Safety and Sanitation	1
Special Management Housing	1
TOTAL	166

Category and Subcategory of Concerns

**Number of Reported Concerns from or in regard to Scioto Juvenile Correctional
Facility by Category and Subcategory Received by CIIC from
January 1, 2005 to December 7, 2006**

Staff Accountability

Subject of Concern	Number of Concerns
Failure To Respond To Communication	9
Failure to Follow Policies	7
Failure to Perform Job Duties	5
Other	4
Access to Staff	2
TOTAL	27

Force/Supervision

Subject of Concern	Number of Concerns
Other	6
Use of Force	5
Harassment	4
Abusive Language	3
Intimidation/Threats	3
Racial/Ethnic Slurs	2
Privacy Violation	1
Retaliation for Voicing Complaints	1
TOTAL	25

Health Care

Subject of Concern	Number of Concerns
Improper/Inadequate Medical Care	7
Delay/Denial of Medication	5
Other	4
Access/Delay in Receiving Medication	2
Medical Records	1
TOTAL	19

Mental Health Services

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	7
Denial/Inadequate Treatment	4
Psychiatric Medication	1
TOTAL	12

Other

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	10
TOTAL	10

Institution Assignments

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Transfer or Denial	7
Other	2
TOTAL	9

Facility Maintenance

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Showers and Sinks	2
Building Temperature	1
Ceilings	1
Lighting	1
Toilets	1
Ventilation	1
Windows	1
TOTAL	8

Discrimination

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	4
Disciplinary Action	3
TOTAL	7

Protection

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Personal Safety	6
Separation	1
TOTAL	7

Non-Grievable Issues

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Court	4
Other	1
YBIR/Hearing	1
TOTAL	6

Housing Assignments

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Unit Assignment	3
Bed Assignment	1
Cell/Bed Assignment	1
TOTAL	5

Telephone Issues

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	3
Denial of Phone Privileges	1
Inadequate Access	1
TOTAL	5

Food Services

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Denial	1
Food Portions	1
Food Temperature	1
Other	1
TOTAL	4

Educational/Vocational Training

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	2
Programs	1
TOTAL	3

Mail/Package

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Delay/Failure in Delivery	2
Delay/Failure in Sending	1
TOTAL	3

Recovery Services

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Recovery Services Programs	3
TOTAL	3

Religious Services

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	3
TOTAL	3

Records

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	2
TOTAL	2

Visiting

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Hours	1
Rules	1
TOTAL	2

Recreation

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Recreation Facilities/Equipment	2
TOTAL	2

Job Assignments

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	1
TOTAL	1

Laundry

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Other	1
TOTAL	1

Safety/Sanitation

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Overcrowding	1
TOTAL	1

Special Management Housing

<u>Subject of Concern</u>	Number of Concerns
Placement	1
TOTAL	1

Youth On-Site Communication from Other Facilities Regarding Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

During the on-site visits and inspections of DYS facilities in 2005 and 2006, it was not uncommon for the male youth to comment on problems or concerns regarding their observation or experience while in reception status at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. For example, during the inspection of Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility on August 30, 2005, numerous youth discussed operations and conditions at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. The following summarizes their communication:

- Youth would reportedly go for a week and a half without mail being distributed. Youth alleged that their mail was not forwarded to them upon transfer.
- Several juveniles relayed that the food at Scioto JCF was “bad,” that portions were insufficient, and the milk was reportedly spoiled. (See also the CIIC report on the Freedom Center, which receives its meals from Scioto JCF. Comments from the staff and from the youth regarding the food provided by Scioto were consistently negative.)
- The juveniles reported that when youth assaulted each other at Scioto JCF, they would only go to their rooms for a couple of hours and come right back out to assault each other again.
- Youth referred to Carver Unit and Jefferson Unit as the “worst.” The juveniles stated that the showers were “disgusting” and the units were “dirty.”
- Youth alleged that staff at Scioto JCF did not pay attention to the youth, were oblivious to fights, and even when they knew there was a problem, they reportedly would not separate the youth. The juveniles also alleged that the staff played favorites, and that they were “pushovers.” Reportedly, officers would bring their lunch to work, youth would steal it, and nothing would be done about it.
- Lastly, the male youth stated that while at Scioto JCF they just “sat around all day with nothing to do.” They complained that the females received better programming and had better access to learning materials such as books.

Review of Grievances

Each month the CIIC receives a list of summarized grievances from each DYS facility. The information below is based on the Scioto JCF grievance report dated October 12, 2006. The grievances in this report are dated September 5-September 27, 2006. CIIC staff created the subject category headings found in both tables provided below. These are not necessarily the subject categories used by the Department of Youth Services.

There were 70 grievances filed at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility and recorded from September 5, 2006 to September 27, 2006. Each grievance contained an area for a brief summary, completion status, response information and outcome. No grievance was counted more than once. While several grievances contained more than one issue, only the most salient issue was included for statistical purposes. A brief analysis of grievances by subject is included below

Complete and Incomplete

Number of Complete and Incomplete Grievances at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility from September 5, 2006 to September 27, 2006 with Percent.

Complete		Incomplete		TOTAL	
<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
40	57%	30	43%	70	100%

The information used in this evaluation is only for the month of September 2006. An incomplete grievance may be marked incomplete even though the Coordinator responded to it. An incomplete grievance is understood by CIIC staff to be a pending or open grievance, one that has not yet resulted in a disposition. Out of the 70 grievances, 48 had some type of Coordinator response (68.6%). However, in follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was relayed that upon further review of the grievance reports, it was determined that 68 of the 70 grievances had some type of response, comprising a 97 percent response rate.

CIIC Staff do not have access to investigations related to these grievances. Just because investigation details are not mentioned does not mean that a thorough investigation did not occur.

Although a large number of grievances can be cause for concern, a large number of grievances can also be a positive indicator. The volume and frequency of grievance usage may indicate that youth do not fear retaliation and that they trust the effectiveness of the grievance procedure in solving a problem, or addressing a complaint or concern. Caution should always be exercised in reaching conclusions as to the meaning of the volume of grievances at any one facility.

A high number of incomplete grievances can be an indicator of inadequate staffing of persons with responsibility to investigate and resolve grievances, to ensure that all grievances are promptly investigated and appropriate dispositions rendered. It can also be an indicator of a lack of monitoring of responsiveness by administrators either at the facility itself or at the DYS Chief Inspector's office. For any grievance procedure to be effective, which is mutually beneficial to the Department of Youth Services and to its facilities, its staff and its youth, it must hold a status of importance and rank as a priority. Such status typically is evident in staffing allocated to the grievance procedure, not just to avoid delays in responsiveness, but also to ensure thorough fact-finding investigations prior to dispositions.

In regard to the grievances reviewed from the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, some incomplete grievances have a response from the Coordinator. Out of 70 grievances, 48 had some type of response. While that is greater than half, a completion or response rate of 90 percent would be a reasonable goal, taking into account grievances filed near the end of a month that appropriately carry over into the next month as pending, open or incomplete. Lastly, it is important to note that these statistics come from only one month of grievance reports. These statistics may differ greatly from those compiled over a year's time. For further information, see the CIIC Report: Evaluation of the Department of Youth Services Grievance Procedure of August 16, 2006 which is posted on the CIIC website.

Subject of Grievances

Grievances filed at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility in September 2006 by Subject with Number and Percent

<u>Area of Concern</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent of Total Grievances</u>
Health Care	<u>16</u>	22.85%
Staff	15	21.42
Discipline/Lockdown	13	18.57
Communications	8	11.42
Recreation	6	8.57
Safety	3	4.28
Facility/Maintenance	3	4.28
Other	2	2.85
Release	2	2.85
Commissary	1	1.42
Religion	1	1.42
TOTAL	70	100%

Health Care

As shown in the above table, the largest category of grievances in the month pertained to Health Care, with 16, comprising 22.85 percent of the total grievances. Common grievances in the September 2006 grievance report centered on access to the clinic and the inability to obtain medication. Other grievances stated staff did not believe youth who claimed they were in pain or suffering from some type of ailment. While the majority of these grievances contained some type of response from the Coordinator, others remained unanswered and incomplete. One of the unanswered incomplete grievances states:

- “For two days now I have not been receiving my lunch time meds...”

This grievance was received September 27, 2006, and though unanswered in the month, was filed at the end of the month of the report period.

Staff-Related

Staff-related grievances ranked second highest of the categories, with 15 grievances, comprising 21.4 percent of all grievances. The Staff category contained grievances related to staff accountability and inappropriate supervision. The majority of grievances about staff had to do with verbal abuse. Of the grievances mentioning staff verbal abuse, some were broad and included statements such as “Staff disrespected me” or “Staff cussed at me.” Others seemed to be more personal. A few of the more disturbing grievances regarding verbal abuse are listed below.

- “She says I’m nasty and don’t know how to carry myself as a woman...”
- “...[He] has been laughing at me since he found out I may have HPV.”
- “He came over to me and said I’m starting to act like a bitch.”
- “...[She] asked me so what kinda hoe are you?”

Also included in this category were accusations of staff favoritism toward certain youth. Two grievances alleged that staff bought items from the vending machines for certain youth. Another grievance stated that a staff member only allowed certain youth to clean for their community service while the staff person ignored others who wished to do so. In all three instances of alleged favoritism, there was a response from the Coordinator. In these responses, the Coordinator relayed that the issues would be addressed with the relevant staff member.

Discipline/Lockdown

The Discipline category also remains near the top of the list, ranking as the third highest category of grievances, with 13, comprising 18.57 percent of all grievances in the month. For the purpose of this report, discipline concerns were placed in the same category as grievances regarding the amount of time youth spent locked in their room without any activity. Out of the 13 grievances in this category five grievances were filed by youth questioning why they were forced to remain in their rooms for such long periods of time.

- "...JCO kept us in our rooms for two hours straight"
- "We ain't doing nothing and everyday we go in our rooms for a long time."
- "I was in my room all of second shift."
- "JCO keeps us in our rooms for long periods of time...and there are no door logs."

Other topics in this category included youth who claimed they were locked in their rooms due to a disturbance for which they were not involved. For the most part, the Coordinator responded to these grievances. When it applied, the Coordinator relayed to the youth that lockdown was necessary until the details of an incident were sorted out and the individuals involved addressed.

As of the date this information was provided to CIIC staff, only four of the 13 grievances remained without a response. Of some concern was a grievance that remained unanswered which stated:

- "I was in isolation with no pants on and male staff kept coming in there standing in front of the door. [They] made me top [sic] the floor in a t-shirt and some underwear."

Just because a grievance was incomplete at the time the report was provided to CIIC staff does not mean it remains incomplete. It also does not mean that an investigation was not conducted. It is important to note that the grievance report provided to CIIC staff only includes a brief summary of the grievance and not the details of an investigation.

Communications

Communications ranked fourth in volume, with eight grievances, comprising 11.42 percent of the grievances filed in the month. The grievances in this category included not receiving mail, mail being withheld, and mail not being sent out. A final grievance stated that, due to the pencil sharpener being broken, the youth could not write home to their parents. Five of these grievances had no response whatsoever and remained incomplete.

Recreation

As far as the Recreation category, the overwhelming concern was the use of the swimming pool, the topic of four of the six grievances in this category. All four of these grievances did have a response from the Coordinator and were labeled complete. The response relayed by the Coordinator was that additional staff had been hired. These staff members were to be certified lifeguards and their presence would allow youth to take advantage of the swimming pool.

Safety

All three grievances concerning Safety were from youth concerned about their safety from other youth. Statements from grievances regarding safety are noted below.

- "...[She] is a safety and security risk. She runs up on girls on this group and threatens to kill people."
- "...[He] punched me in the back of the head and no staff saw it."

The Coordinator responded to both of the above grievances. However, the third grievance, for which there was no response, is cause for concern.

- "...[She] has been assaulting me. She has left numerous bruises on me. They still don't take me to have pictures taken."

Not only does this grievance allege youth on youth violence, it also alleges failure of staff to document such violence. While safety concerns do not rank as high as some of the other concerns in this month's statistics, they are always of the utmost concern. At any correctional facility, there is reason to believe that regardless of the number of safety concerns reported, there are others that go unreported and others that youth may attempt to resolve in some other way.

Facility Maintenance

There were also three grievances in the category regarding Facility Maintenance. These included two grievances for a broken water fountain. All three of these grievances were answered and all included dates of repair for the broken items.

Other

There were two grievances in the Other category. The first stated that the youth would like to be allowed to shave. In follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was reported that this request was addressed and granted with a response on October 18, 2006 that the youth be permitted to shave.

The other stated that the youth was not allowed access to the restroom. Neither of these grievances was answered as of the date the report was submitted. As of October 12, 2006, both remained incomplete. While the first of the two grievances may not seem to be a priority, the latter certainly causes concern. This is not the first time access to restroom facilities has appeared in grievance reports for Scioto JCF. In follow-up communication from DYS staff in 2007, it was relayed that the grievance was addressed on October 24, 2006 including a response of Unit Administrator monitoring staff.

Release

The category of Release also includes two grievances. The first of the two stated that the Release Authority changed the planned date of release. The Coordinator did respond to this grievance. The Coordinator explained very thoroughly, that the Release Authority may change the release date if they do not believe the youth is ready for release, or if there are problems with the youth's placement. The second grievance in this category also dealt with placement after release. In this case the youth complained that the Parole Officer refused to work with them. The Coordinator included a response to the youth as well as a summary of communication with the Parole Officer.

Commissary and Religion

The last two categories, Commissary and Religion, contained one grievance each. One youth complained that he had not received everything he ordered from Commissary. This grievance was answered and it was explained to the youth that he did not have enough money in his account to pay for everything that was ordered.

The only grievance concerning religion pertained to access to religious services. In this grievance the youth stated they were told they had to choose between taking a shower and going to church. Once again, the Coordinator responded to this grievance and reiterated to the youth that they should have been provided the opportunity to shower before church. The Coordinator stated that the issue has been addressed with staff and will continue to be monitored.

CIIC ON-SITE VISITS AND INSPECTIONS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

This section provides information on the CIIC on-site visit and two inspections, which occurred on August 9, 2005, December 21, 2005 and May 25, 2006.

On-Site Visit on August 9, 2005

The Correctional Institution Inspection Committee staff visited the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility on August 9, 2005. This visit was announced and coordinated with the Department of Youth Services following the new CIIC statutory authority to inspect and evaluate juvenile correctional facilities.

CIIC Staff Present: Shirley Pope, Director
 Gregory Geisler, Inspector
 Adam Jackson, Inspector
 Carol Robison, Inspector

Institution Staff Present: Robert Pritchett, Superintendent
 Sherry Wolfe, Deputy Superintendent of Direct Services
 Vince Spurlock, Indirect Deputy Superintendent
 Marc Bratton, Program Deputy Males
 Nancy Hoff, Program Deputy Females

DYS Staff Present: Nathan Miner, Legislative Liaison
 Gary Mohr, Deputy Director, Corrections

The Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF) is located on the Scioto River and is one of two female facilities operated by DYS. It also serves as the male reception center. According to the DYS website the average male population is 227 and the average female population is 100. As of the date of the On-Site Visit, Scioto JCF had not received accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA). However, according to the DYS website, SJCF was accredited by the American Correctional Association in May of 2006.

Housing Units

A Social Worker relayed some of her concerns to CIIC Staff. She stated that the main issue involves youth who are repeat offenders. She reported that she tries to assist youth based on the information they relay to her. However, the youth who are familiar with the facility already know the “game” regarding rules and administration.

After juveniles are received at Woodson they are sent across the hall to Boone Unit. This unit contains a Public Defender’s office as well as a safe room used for disciplinary reasons. It was reported to CIIC Staff that time in this room could range from one hour to five days if a juvenile is awaiting an IDC decision. Both juveniles and staff raised concerns in this unit. Youth complained that water from the water fountain was warm and that staff cussed at them and used group punishment for the actions of a few. Other juveniles reported they run out of towels, clothes do not fit and there are as many as three juveniles in a room. Staff voiced a need for more programming and corrective measures.

CIIC Staff noted at least 10 juveniles on this day sitting around without any work or constructive activities.

In Jefferson Unit youth are housed by age and size. Youth are given an assessment to identify potential sex offenders under PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act). This is done to determine potential predators and victims. On the date of the On-Site Visit, there were several concerns noted by CIIC staff concerning Jefferson Unit. First and foremost was the report that identified sexual predators and victims were housed in the same unit. It was a strong indicator that staff failed to understand the very purpose of identifying such groups, developed as a positive practice stemming from the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Once identified, the idea is to separate them for the purpose of protecting the vulnerable. The reported mixing of the two identified groups was extremely disturbing. Also of concern in this unit were the bathroom and shower facilities, which were observed as filthy. Trash was all over the floor and the whole restroom area was in major need of cleaning.

In follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was relayed that the re-implementation of the Unit Management structure has assisted the Unit Administrators in monitoring youth classified as victims and sexual predators. ODYS uses Treatment Teams on each unit. The Unit Administrator and Treatment Team members are notified regarding youth who have been classified as victims or sexual predators. The Treatment Team maintains the quality assurance. ODYS Treatment Teams are able to manage information about individuals who are housed under their supervision. It was reported that, "They know their kids." ODYS also reportedly has a comprehensive system of reporting. Further, it was reported that ODYS policy and the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) law require special housing for victims and predators. According to DYS staff, "We do not place victims and predators in the same rooms." It was further relayed that, "We absolutely understand the federal PREA requires special housing. There is no definition of special housing in the law. We do not place victims and predators in the same rooms. Unfortunately, our physical plant does not allow for separate predator and victim units."

Carver Unit was also cause for concern. While the restrooms were clean, the safe room was observed with a torn mattress and garbage in the cell. CIIC staff also noticed property piled in a vacant dayroom. Staff in this unit did relay that painting had been completed and that other renovation work was being done. Staff also reported they were in process of getting new furniture. Youth in this area reported to CIIC staff that they have videos but no books. Staff countered this by stating that the youth tear up the books, which is why there were none. Youth complained that they were bored and that there was nothing to do. Youth also remarked that they are locked down too much. One youth stated that he was there for 65 days even though he was reportedly only supposed to be there 30-45 days. Another youth stated, "They do what they want to do." Youth also complained of bugs and lack of air flowing through the vents. A CIIC staff member later spoke with the Stationary Engineer who confirmed that sometimes the air does not fully circulate due to building design.

CIIC staff also observed Sycamore and Cedar Units during this On-Site Visit. These units contained 24 rooms, six bathrooms and three pods per unit. There was also a special needs unit for males in this area. Unit staff consisted of two officers and one Unit Management Administrator. The rooms were clean with beds made. There was a CIIC Memorandum posted on the wall along with artwork made by the youth.

The showers had mold and water leaking from the shower handle. At the time of the visit, staff relayed that Scioto JCF recently received approval to proceed with capital improvements to all bathroom facilities. Once again, youth complained that there was nothing for them to do. Several youth showed CIIC staff a chess set with broken and missing pieces. They stated that it was the only game they had, and that even if all the pieces were included, only two people could play. Several other youth could be seen sitting at a table doing nothing. These youth stated they had no pencils. There was an obvious, overall boredom displayed within these units. Staff in this area voiced an overall concern with the reported decline in the conditions at the facility. Staff also reported a need for more social workers as well as a perceived lack of appreciation from executive staff.

Allman Unit was the first female unit observed on this visit. According to the DYS website, the Allman Unit has two programs. The first program is for Female Intake. The girls are required to stay in Allman Unit for 10-14 days to complete the required assessments, individual planning, and program adjustment. The other program is called L.O.F.T. or Learning Opportunities for Tomorrow. The program mission is to provide a community environment for youth to acquire and practice independent living skills necessary to be self sufficient upon release.

On the day of the visit there were 14 females in initial intake, 14 in recommitment and seven in revocation. Girls were separated by age and mental health needs. All girls in this unit were at least 16 years old. In this unit, curriculum from William K. Willis High School was used to achieve diplomas and GEDs. It was relayed by staff that mediation was developed to deal with issues between girls as they arise. One person acts as an arbitrator to resolve the dispute using a peer teaching method.

CIIC Staff observed girls taking parenting classes using dolls. Staff relayed that the girls stay in the hospital for three days after giving birth. After the birth, the baby is turned over to the girl's parent, guardian or placed in foster care. This differs greatly from the Ohio Reformatory for Women, which has a nursery where eligible mothers bond for 18 months with their child after birth. Once again, the bathrooms in this unit were in poor condition. There appeared to be black and red mold as well as peeling paint in these facilities.

According to the DYS website, Hunter Unit houses younger girls whose ages range from 12 to 16 years of age and who generally have shorter sentences. Staff relayed several concerns in this area. These concerns ranged from being overworked to feeling helpless in disciplining youth. Staff stated the tools created to deal with youth were developed several years ago and youth are now tougher and more violent. Staff also reported most

female youth in this facility have suffered from some type of neglect, abuse or mental health issue. Staff reported treatment team meetings were held weekly on Tuesdays. These meetings included a psychologist, social worker, Unit Administrator, recreation staff, teacher and youth.

There were no fights on the date of the On-Site Visit. However, staff reported that there were equal fights among boys and girls. Staff also reported that the majority of fights involving girls centered on relationship issues, while fights involving males were based on geographic alignments, such as Cincinnati versus Cleveland gangs.

The youth in this area also had several concerns. The common issue of boredom was raised once again. Youth also stated they do not always get responses to their grievances or, if they do, it takes months for a response. Another youth reported staff favoritism towards certain youth. This youth reported some staff buy youth food out of the vending machines or let them stay up later than everyone else. Other youth stated that punishments for small violations were too severe. One youth stated that, when placed in isolation, staff make them wait too long to use the restroom.

Buckeye Unit houses youth with special needs including severe mental health, physical limitations and youth with limitations in cognitive intellectual functioning that significantly impairs their ability to adequately function on a general population unit. On the date of this visit, the population of the unit was 20. This unit has a maximum capacity of 25 youth. The unit consisted of a large common area, storage rooms, 24 female rooms, six bathrooms, isolation room, Unit Management Administrator office, two social worker offices, psychologist office and a laundry room.

On the day of the visit there were six juveniles on suicide watch, two in Buckeye Unit and four in Davey Unit. Staff relayed a need for more programming. However, some staff relayed that not enough of the youth are willing to participate in programming. Staff also expressed a need for staff reorganization and additional staffing. It was reported that department heads were working on staffing and four clinical staff positions were being filled. Staff alleged that some officers exhibit a pattern of abuse and end up getting off on disability.

There is a safe room in this area that can be used for up to 72 hours. Staff expressed concern that, other than this room, there is really no punishment or consequence for disruptive youth. A female youth reported that two youth were beating up on a weaker youth and dared this youth to strip in front of staff. Reportedly, this was allowed to occur in staff presence. These "bullies" reportedly are not held accountable for their behavior.

Davey Unit houses the older girls, 16 years and above. Also located on Davey is the Adjustment Pod. Girls who are continuously non-compliant and disruptive to the general population are identified and placed on the pod. Again the restrooms were moldy with leaking showers and peeling paint and the youth complained about a lack of programming.

Food Services

In the Kitchen and Food Services area, employees working to prepare lunch were observing sanitary rules. Only adult staff were permitted to work in the kitchen, not youth. However, administrative staff indicated that they would like to offer youth training in food preparation. The area appeared clean, bright and open. There was an exceptionally large window overlooking the grounds. The equipment seemed to be in good working condition and the tools appeared to be secure. Food trays and serving line also appeared clean. Both staff and youth use the same dining facilities.

Female youth eat first at 11:15 a.m. and male youth eat about 20 minutes later. The youth form a line after instructed by an officer. The youth take the first seat available and then raise their hand to get up after being seated. The youth are allowed to talk during meals. Reportedly, there was a time when talking during meals was prohibited and youth were required to sit in silence with their heads down during mealtime. The youth appeared orderly and officers appeared to interact appropriately with youth.

Attending a general meal period is an opportunity for CIIC to listen to concerns voiced by youth. The youth, both males and females, stated they did not believe the food portions were sufficient. Pregnant females took specific issue with meal portions and reported that they receive the same portion as all others. Some complained about milk being served several days past the expiration date. Another youth stated she was prescribed an extra calorie diet, but the Food Services staff were non-compliant. Lastly, concerns were voiced about youth on cafeteria restriction. Youth on this restriction have to eat in the pod. Reportedly, they miss school because the food is delivered right before school begins. CIIC staff were told that if the youth have problems with the food, the issues are addressed with food service workers.

CIIC ate lunch in the dining hall on the date of the On-Site Visit. The meal consisted of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, mixed vegetables, fruit, milk and water. The quality of food was considered to be good. The meal consisted of generous portions of fresh food served at the appropriate temperature.

The Storeroom was also visited. The Storeroom Supervisor relayed that this area is used for storing uniforms, medical and food service supplies. Food supplies are also stored for Freedom Center, a nearby DYS facility for females. Milk is delivered twice per week and bread is delivered four times per week. The Supervisor reported that food inventory is every 71 days, even though it should be every 45 days. Staff relayed that air conditioning was finally added to the building in 2004, reportedly four to five years after it was requested. Before the air conditioning was installed, exhaust and floor fans were used to cool and ventilate the area. In the food services area, the refrigerator temperature is reportedly checked every 15 minutes during the workday.

Medical Services

The Medical Services area contained information on STDs, other infectious diseases and other health care topics. There were three girls waiting to see the doctor. One specific staff person reportedly oversees female health care and another specific staff person oversees health care for the boys in the facility. Staff relayed that there are two part-time dentists. One dentist works three days per week and the other works two days per week. When youth arrive they are given an intake dental screening, which includes a cleaning. The male youth are put on hold until they reach their parent institution unless there is a serious dental problem that requires immediate attention. This area reportedly has physician coverage 24 hours per day, seven days per week. There is also an OB/GYN present once per week. According to medical staff, the most frequent treatment is for broken bones and fractured jaws.

Visiting

According to the DYS website, visiting is encouraged to maintain and strengthen family ties. Only immediate family (father, mother, siblings, step-parents, guardian, grandparents and the youths own child) can visit. Aunts, uncles and other relatives may not visit until youth reach the appropriate level or with special permission from a Unit Administrator or Social Worker. If a family cannot visit on a regular visiting day, special arrangements may be requested. No more than three visitors are permitted at any one time. Visiting hours for females are: Last names A-J receive visitors on the first and third Saturdays and the second and fourth Sundays from 2:30 P.M. - 5:50 P.M., last names K-Z receive visitors on the second and fourth Saturdays and the first and third Sundays from 2:30 P.M. - 5:50 P.M. The visiting hours for males are from 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. and are by reservation only.

The visiting area is small, provides vending machines and lacks any real privacy.

Education/Recreation

CIIC staff observed an English class in session. Youth in this class were categorized by grade level and reading score. After arrival, all youth are given the California Achievement Test and other supplemental tests to evaluate their progress. All youth must then be enrolled in school within 10 days of arrival. There are both special education and high school level teachings available. Classroom time consists of two 50-minute periods. On the day of the on-site visit, there were 11 boys in both first and second periods. It was reported that there were six periods a day with four sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon. Reportedly, classroom time per student is equal to approximately three to four weeks.

Some youth expressed concerns that they get kicked out of school for what they consider minor infractions. For instance, one youth reported she was kicked out for losing her ID badge. There was serious concern about assaults on staff by youth and the education staff asked for and received an officer in the school area. Reportedly, this has helped with

transportation and security and helped to make the school environment safer. Some Scioto JCF females take part in a virtual learning program at Freedom Center. According to staff, this allows teachers more time to monitor youth.

The library is located downstairs. There are books available for all learning levels. There was no internet access. It was reported that the females spend between 45 minutes to an hour in the library per day. Youth in this area remarked that they did not feel safe and that staff failed to take action against assaultive youth. Other youth alleged that staff were “acting nice today” only because CIIC staff were present.

The vocational area, auditorium and recreation area were visited. The vocational area is home to a program titled ONOW (Orientation to Non-Traditional Occupations for Women). This program teaches several trades and technical skills to females. These skills include plumbing, computer drafting and tiling. The auditorium is used for presentations including graduations and talent shows. It is also used for religious services. Staff relayed male and female youth use these facilities alternately. The gymnasium was undergoing renovation at the time of this visit. A music class in session was observed, as well as the swimming area. A full-time lifeguard had just recently been hired as of the time of this visit. This allows the girls to swim twice per week and the boys to swim on Saturdays. Swimming is based on a privilege level and Concord Township Fire and Rescue provide underwater training.

Treatment and Programming

According to the DYS website the following treatment programs have been developed to meet the needs of the female population:

Thinking for A Change	Substance Abuse
Trauma	Anger Management
Sex Offender	VOICES
Life Skills	Psychological Counseling

Educational programs:	
Regular Education	Special Education
AOT	Personal Development
Music	

Other programs:	
Parenting	Religious services and programs
ArtSafe	Community Service
Family Day (Quarterly)	Large Muscle Activities
Girls Choir	Swimming
Mentoring	AA

Females have an opportunity to take part in Career Day, which happens once per quarter. The youth are given the opportunity to meet with female professionals to talk about career options.

Communication to Superintendent

Identified concerns and issues from the on-site visit were communicated via written inquiry to the Superintendent and DYS Director. The following excerpts are from a letter dated August 22, 2005 to the Superintendent from the CIIC Director:

...Your facility was our very first on-site visit to a DYS Facility. To date, we have completed four such facilities. Knowledge of each additional facility has helped to provide a measure of comparison, noting differences and similarities. Visits to the additional facilities have helped to confirm the initial concerns identified at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. We also have had the benefit of additional communication from juveniles at other facilities who have spoken about their experience at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility.

The attached will serve as the substitute for our close-out or exit discussion that typically is included in each CIIC inspection and on-site visit. The attached is based on a careful review of notes taken on site by the five CIIC staff who were present on the on-site visit. The written materials provided on site were also reviewed in preparation of the attached. While a more detailed report is anticipated, the attached is intended to communicate areas of concern.

Intended as a positive observation, not only does Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility have tremendous potential for improvement and development, but each of the identified problems can be solved. The idleness observed that was also the topic of complaints from girls and boys, is a priority concern. If idleness is addressed, many other issues will simultaneously be addressed. In the on site visits to other facilities, we have learned that not all prohibit or have such restrictions on job assignments. We have learned that some staff have resisted job assignments, not out of concern for youth or child labor laws, but because they do not want to supervise youth. Job assignments can teach responsibility, alleviate boredom, reduce behavior problems, keep the place clean, and serve as an incentive and disincentive in a behavior management system. The conditions of the showers on both sides of the compound were brought to my attention by the juveniles. Reportedly, no one is assigned the job of cleaning the showers. As described accurately in the attached, their condition was beyond that of mere sanitation. Their condition should be considered a health issue.

The idleness is connected to what appears to be a lack of programs. The potential for excellent programs exists, and many of the youth with whom I spoke are "hungry" for such programs. I will send you a copy of the CIIC report on the Ohio Reformatory for Women as soon as it is approved

for release, so that you can consider the relevance of many of their programs for females, including youthful offenders and mothers. The information provided on the sexual abuse issues may also be beneficial. Regardless of the boys' reception status, programs can serve a good purpose. Substance abuse programs, for example, should be available to both of your populations. They should not have to wait to be assigned elsewhere or to go to Freedom Center to receive such substance abuse assistance.

We have seen other institutions overcome serious morale problems among staff and youth. Some of the problems may need the attention of DYS Central Office staff. The challenges currently faced by Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility surely cannot be met while experiencing staff shortages.

The complaints in the special needs girls' unit about the bullies' abuse of the weak are regarded as extremely serious and indicative of a larger problem. The ability to separate for protection and administrative purposes is a necessity. It makes no sense to identify PREA victims and predators, only to place them in the same unit.

The staff and youth communication tend to indicate that there is a vacuum, where there ought to be a clear, effective series of behavioral incentives and disincentives. We have found facilities without such a vacuum. The Therapeutic Community is one such example...

Identified Concerns and Issues from the August 9, 2005 On-site Visit

I. Facility-Wide Concerns and Issues (both male and female populations)

Lack of Programming: Programming appeared to be largely limited to the areas of academic education and recreation. Facility staff reported that school is limited to one period, which is 50 minutes in length, or two periods, which is 90 minutes in length, on a daily basis. The institution does provide an Orientation to Non-Traditional Occupations for Women (ONOW) Program, and facility staff reported that they do provide some ancillary programs. Numerous juvenile offenders, especially in the female units, reported that there was a significant lack of programming. The areas of mental health programming, including substance abuse programming, and special education programming, in addition to other diverse programming, need to be developed by the institution staff.

Excessive Idleness Experienced by Juvenile Offenders: The Juvenile offenders appeared to be extremely idle and bored during the time periods when they should be experiencing their most activity. Female juvenile offenders reported that their days consist of school, one hour of recreation, and meals. Male juvenile offenders

reported similar concerns, and stated that their idleness is compounded by the fact that their orientation is designed to last 21 days and they are being housed at the institution for average periods of 42 to 44 days. Some male juvenile offenders reported experiencing six plus hours of idle time per day. The juvenile offenders, especially the males, reported and it was observed that there was a lack of books, games and pencils, which are needed to reduce their idle times. There was no indication that youth had jobs, unless they volunteered for them

Aggressive Behavior by Youth and Lack of Appropriate Structure/Control:

CIIC staff observed juvenile offenders acting in a challenging manner toward juvenile correction officers, with limited response by the officers. CIIC staff witnessed one female juvenile offender challenging a juvenile correction officer in regard to being told to stand by her door. Juvenile offenders reported that there are violent juveniles who exhibit violent behavior, such as fighting, who are not separated from the other juveniles. The juveniles reported that the facility staff need to stop the violence and improve the security. They stated that many juvenile offenders do what they want to do, which shows a lack of structure and control. It was reported that there is a lack of special management housing to address the aggressive juveniles in the facility. It was reported that there were 309 youth behavior incident reports in July 2005, with the category breakdown indicating that there were 616 incidents of use of force, 75 incidents of use of “off grounds medical”, three occurrences of sex, and two occurrences of property damage. Juvenile offenders reported being assaulted by other juvenile offenders, without the aggressors being disciplined.

Treatment of Juvenile Offenders by Juvenile Correction Officers: Juvenile offenders reported that staff have acted aggressively towards them and abused them physically and verbally. They reported examples of juvenile offenders being slapped in the face by staff for not returning a pencil, being hit in the jaw by staff, and being “cussed at” by staff during interactions. They reported group punishment by juvenile correction officers for actions of one or a few juvenile offenders. They reported inconsistent discipline for the same act by different juvenile correction officers. They reported being placed in isolation for three hours, and not being allowed to use the restroom when they request it. Juveniles reported favoritism toward certain juveniles by juvenile correction officers, especially in dealing with juvenile offenders who have resided at the facility for longer periods of time or along racial lines. It was reported the favoritism was exhibited in taking disciplinary action, in providing food to juveniles, and in allowing juveniles to stay up in the unit past their bedtime.

Food Service: One of the most common areas of concern reported by the juveniles was the food service. The juveniles reported that quality and quantity of food needed to be improved. It was reported that pregnant juveniles do not receive increased portions based on their physical condition. It was reported that food was often served cold, that they were often served spoiled milk, that the snacks they received had expired expiration dates, that snacks were not always issued as

scheduled, and that there was hair in the food. It was reported that the food service staff was not responsive to juvenile offender complaints, and they were not receptive to having juvenile offenders working in the food service area. Institution staff indicated that there are some youth movement problems in getting juvenile offenders to report to meals in a timely manner. There was a delay in the feeding schedule on the day of the on-site, which resulted in lunch running into the school schedule. The water fountain was broken. Juveniles reported that food service did not comply with medical-ordered diets.

Grievance Procedure: Juveniles reported that the youth grievance procedure is ineffective. They reported the following concerns:

- That the grievance procedure does not work
- That no one answers their grievances
- That responses to grievances take in excess of 30 days to receive,
- That the disposition of the grievances favor the facility staff's position
- That the resolutions of the grievances are often extremely vague,
- That they have not attempted to use the grievance procedure due to its ineffectiveness.
- That grievances are not picked up on a daily basis.
- (It was observed in the Woodson Unit, the male reception unit, that the former grievance procedure, rather than the new grievance procedure, was posted.)

Housing of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Youth: Juveniles receive a PREA screening to determine if they are physically assaultive, sexually aggressive, sexually active, or sexually victimized, and placed on a Security Alert List to determine single or double bunking. The juvenile offenders are housed in units and rooms based on their age and size. Sexually assaultive juveniles are housed in the same unit as juvenile sexual victims. "PREA Youth," both sexual aggressors and past sexual victims, are reportedly housed in the same unit, totally ignoring the purpose of identification, including decisions on appropriate housing. (In follow-up communication from DYS staff regarding this issue, in addition to other commentary included previously, it was relayed that, "The law does not define special housing. We never place a victim and an aggressive youth in the same room. Because of our physical plant, there are times when we place them on the same unit, and the Unit Administrator is always aware of their classification.")

Staff Morale: Many of the juvenile correction officers feel helpless in regard to controlling juvenile offenders that "act out" and disrespect authority. Juvenile correction officers reported that they feel that their power has been removed with the changes by the administration regarding the control and discipline of the juvenile offenders. The mandating of overtime for juvenile correctional officers, due to staff shortages, has lowered the morale of staff. The relationship of the union and administration concerning the operation of the facility has impacted adversely on staff morale.

Social Workers: Facility staff indicated that there is a need for additional social workers in the facility due to their vital role in treatment. Facility staff indicated that there is a shortage of two social workers for the female units, which limits the services the females receive and puts additional stress on other staff. Juvenile offenders reported that the social workers are backlogged in submitting juvenile reports to their judges.

Medical: The medical services area was identified in one of the recent lawsuits as one of the positive aspects of the facility. Female juveniles reported that they preferred to have a female doctor, and that the doctors do not always fully listen to their issues. Facility staff indicated that there is a need for more escort staff to get juveniles to their medical appointments on time. Male and female juveniles are housed together in the Central Medical Facility, and even though it was reported that interaction is restricted, this could be an area of concern.

Lack of Interaction with the Community: Facility staff indicated that all three DYS facilities in the area attempted to create interaction with the community with a citizen advisory board, but there is a reported lack of interest by the community. The facility does not have a connection to the community in any manner, such as community service.

Cleanliness and Facility Maintenance: The cleanliness of the units needs to be improved. The bathrooms in both the male and female units were dirty, with mold being observed. Leaking showerheads and handles were observed along with bubbling and chipped paint. The floors in the units appeared to be in need of stripping and cleaning. Glass in several of the juvenile room doors need to be fixed. The cleaning supplies failed to deodorize the units. The juveniles reported that they have had problems with ants, spiders, and cockroaches in their units. The CIIC staff observed a cockroach in the food service building. The juveniles reported that their rooms were often hot, and there were temperature variations in the units. Facility staff indicated that they sometimes had to raise temperatures by five degrees to get adequate heat to all areas of the unit. The tabletops in several of the units had chipped tops.

Clothing: Juveniles reported being issued clothing that was either too small or too big. Female juveniles reported that their issued clothing was often stained or torn.

II. Female Juvenile Concerns and Issues:

Lack of Unit Housing: There are only four housing units for the female population, which creates separation problems for the female population. The Allman Unit contains the female intake/orientation juveniles and the older transition juveniles. The Davey Unit contains suicidal and aggressive female juveniles.

Lack of Pre-Natal and Mother's Programs: The pregnant juveniles reported a lack of pre-natal programming. Facility staff reported a lack of a Mother's Program for juveniles who had given birth to their babies. They stated that the new mothers were allowed to keep their babies for only a period of three days prior to the babies being sent to the mother's parents, legal guardian, etc. This prevents the new mothers from bonding with their babies, and creates psychological issues when hardships prevent visits from their babies. (In follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was relayed that, "A youth's social worker can arrange a special visit with the baby's guardian, during which the social worker can monitor the visit, allowing the girls to visit with their babies. Clinical staff are always available to discuss any concerns that these new mothers have in regard to bonding with their new babies.")

Lack of Female Juvenile Correction Officers: Facility staff reported that the percentage of female juvenile correction officers needed to properly address the needs of the female population was at least 50 percent, and that they are below that percentage.

Staff to Female Juveniles Counseling Ratios: Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) states that the counseling ratios for staff to female juvenile offenders should be 1:6, and the counseling ratio at the facility is 1:10 or 12. According to follow-up communication from DYS staff, there are no formally established national standards for clinical staffing ratios for the juvenile justice setting. It should be noted that the reported CRIPA content on such ratios was relayed by DYS staff on site.

William K. Willis High School: The juveniles reported that the discipline in the schools is disproportionate to the discipline in the housing units. They reported that they are suspended from school for actions that do not even result in disciplinary action from the security staff in the units. The juveniles reported concerns about the quality of the education program, and complained that they get only one credit a year instead of the three credits a year they would receive in a normal high school. They reported that juveniles on cafeteria restriction have to eat in the units and miss school because the food is delivered to the units when the juveniles are being escorted to school.

Mail: Juveniles reported that the delivery of their mail has been delayed. They also stated that mail is not picked up on a daily basis.

Stolen Property: Juveniles reported that facility staff have stolen their commissary and hygiene items.

Telephones: Juveniles reported that they have experienced problems with the phones not working.

Feminine Hygiene Products: Juveniles reported that they are not given the correct size of sanitary napkins. They stated that they are too small for most of the juveniles.

III. Male Juvenile Concerns and Issues:

Population size and Overcrowding: Central Office and facility staff indicated that the population size of 157 male juveniles is too large to be manageable. They stated their facility and program is designed to accommodate approximately 100 juveniles. They credit the increase in population due to two units being renovated at the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility, two units being renovated at the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the reduction of double rooms at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. Facility staff indicated that one unit was shut down due to staff shortages, which has increased the population in the other units and has reduced their ability to separate juveniles. Male juveniles reported that they sometimes are required to sleep three males per room instead of two.

Length of the Intake Process: Central Office and facility staff indicated that the intake process is designed to be 21 days in length, but that the present average length of stay for males is 42 to 45 days. They attribute the increase in the length of the intake process to the above noted renovations occurring at the two facilities and reduction of juveniles at one facility. Juveniles reported that there are delays in testing and in processing the paperwork by their social workers. Juvenile offenders reported that due to their programming only consisting of limited academic education and recreation in the form of large muscle activities each week, there is an excessive amount of idle time. They stated that the idle time also leads to behavior problems. Facility staff indicated that the delay in transferring juvenile offenders to their parent facility reduces the amount of programming that they can have at their parent institution.

Gang Issues: Facility staff indicated the presence of gang-related activities by the juveniles. They stated that the gangs are organized by city or area code. They stated that they attempt to separate juvenile offenders from the same city, but the population size restricts their ability to separate juveniles. Several juveniles reported being assaulted by gang member when they went to the movies.

Scioto River High School: The juveniles reported that the discipline in the schools is disproportionate to the discipline in the housing units. They reported

that they are suspended from school for actions that do not even result in disciplinary action from the security staff in the units. The juvenile offenders reported concerns about the quality of the education program.

IV. Specific Unit Concerns and Issues:
A. Male Population Units:

Jefferson Unit: The bathrooms had dirty sinks, toilets, showers, and floors, with trash on the floors. The glass in one of the room doors was broken, with some glass still inside the window frame. The floors in the unit needed to be cleaned. The juveniles reported that four fights had occurred the previous night. The mattress covers appeared to be starting to wear and crack.

Carver Unit: The mattress cover in the safe room was torn down the side, and there was trash in the safe room. There was property piled in the vacant dayroom, and strewn about the area. The tabletops on the activity tables had Formica chipped off of them. There were no books in the unit. Facility staff stated that there were no books in the unit because the juveniles tear them up. Juveniles reported that the unit had been locked down for two days in the last week, and that there was trouble in the unit. They stated that there was nothing to do in the unit and that they are bored. A juvenile reported that he had been at the facility for 65 days.

Woodson Unit: It was reported by facility staff that an updated sign regarding the grievance procedure needed to be posted in the unit.

Boone Unit: Juveniles reported that in some cases they were required to have three instead of two juveniles per room. They reported and it was observed that the sizes of some of their clothing were not appropriate. They reported that the facility runs out of clean towels. They stated that the water fountain does not cool the water. They stated that the staff was slow in processing them through intake, and the social workers did not process their paperwork in a timely manner.

Sycamore Unit: The juveniles had just been transferred from this unit to the Jefferson Unit. Several of the mattress covers were ripped.

Cedar Unit: Facility staff indicated that there is a need for staff training to understand and meet the needs of juveniles with mental health concerns. The shower had mold on the walls and leaked. Juveniles reported that the water pressure was poor and there is a problem with ants. They complained about boredom, excessive idle time, and a lack of pencils. They stated that their orientation lasted 35 to 40 days due to testing and paperwork delays. There was only one game table, and the chess pieces were old and broken, with some pieces missing.

B. Female Population Units

Allman Unit: The bathrooms had peeling paint, black and red mold, orange rust, dripping showers, and were dirty. The intake unit was housed with the older juveniles going through the transition to independent living.

Hunter Unit: The juveniles reported boredom due to a lack of groups to attend. The shower had peeling paint, water dripping, and orange rust. The floors were dirty. A juvenile reported being placed in isolation by staff for three hours for a minor violation, staff making them wait too long to use the bathroom, and being kicked out of school for losing her identification badge. Facility staff stated that they are overworked, that there is a juvenile correction officer shortage, and that they have no tools for dealing with the new juvenile offenders. Facility staff reported that male juveniles fight over gang issues and the female juveniles fight over “gay activity.”

Buckeye Unit: The juveniles reported too much idle time and a lack of safety. A juvenile reported that two physically aggressive juveniles beat on a weak juvenile, and double dared her to strip in front of staff, which she did. Facility staff indicated a need for reorganization and more staff. They stated that there is excessive turnover, and that one third of the juvenile correction officers are mandated to work overtime. They reported how unfair it is that some juvenile correction officers show a pattern of abuse, receive disability, and are given light duty upon their return, instead of being required to do their job.

Davey Unit: The juveniles on suicide watch are housed in the same area with the juveniles who are exhibiting aggressive behavior, while the suicide watch area is being renovated. The shower areas had chipping paint, mold, and leaking showers. The juveniles reported that they have a lack of programming and only have school, meals, and one hour of recreation. They reported that there are special groups but they do not do anything.

American Correctional Association Standards and Recommendations

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility provided responses to the ACA standards survey through interviews conducted by CIIC staff with Scioto JCF staff with expertise in the particular areas, including the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendents. The information was gathered during the initial on-site visit on August 9, 2005. The survey was developed by CIIC staff based on excerpts from selected ACA Standards and ACA Commentary on particular standards in the 2003 publication. Facility staff were asked to respond with “Yes” or “No” and/or clarification regarding compliance. The survey was intended solely as a method of obtaining information relevant to operations and conditions. It was useful in identifying potential areas in need of improvement. Only responses to particular standards that indicated non-compliance or partial non-compliance are provided below. The entire survey and response is provided in the full report.

AMERICAN CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION (ACA) STANDARDS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES	
<u>Category and Standard</u>	<u>Response</u>
10. A Community Advisory Committee, representative of the community, serves as a link between the program and community, to advise on policy and problems in facility operation.	No. They have tried to revive the Community Advisory Committee, but there has been no community interest. The Freedom Center and Training Center are adjacent to SJCF, so it is difficult to get community interaction for all three facilities.
17. Policies and procedures for operating and maintaining the facility are specified in a manual accessible to all employees and the public reviewed annually and updated.	Yes to staff. They are available on-line for staff. They are not available to the public.
19. New and revised policies and procedures are disseminated to staff, volunteers, and when appropriate, to juveniles prior to implementation.	No. Policies and procedures are not always disseminated to staff. They are usually disseminated during training and instruction. They are not provided to juveniles.
04. Staffing requirements ensure that juveniles have access to staff, programs, and services.	No. The facility has eight vacant juvenile correction officer (JCO) positions, and seven juvenile correction officers on administrative leave, which is equivalent to one shift of JCOs. The facility's social workers are not licensed. One unit was closed due to staff shortages.
06. The vacancy rate among staff that work directly with juveniles does not exceed 10% for any 18-month period.	No.
08. All personnel are selected, retained, and promoted on the basis of merit and qualifications.	No. The majority of staff is, but not all staff.
04. The facility's training plan provides on-going formal evaluations. A written report is prepared annually.	No. On-going formal evaluations are not provided, but a written report is prepared annually.
05. Library and reference services are available to complement the training and staff development program. Materials are readily accessible to staff.	No. It is planned for the future.
01. There is a staff member responsible for operating a Citizen Involvement and volunteer Service Program for juveniles.	No. They do have religious volunteers.
02. Staff offices are in living units readily accessible to juveniles.	No. Not all staff offices are in the living units due to space issues, which results in the need to issue passes to juveniles. The Unit Administrators are being moved to the living areas.

03. Living units have no more than 25 juveniles each. The facility has a maximum capacity of 150.	Yes for females. No for males. Female living units are limited to 25 juveniles. Male living units have exceeded 25 juveniles, with one unit having 50 juveniles. Efforts are being made to reduce the number of juveniles.
09. The facility is located to facilitate use of community-based services and continued contact between youths and family.	No. The facility is the primary facility for females from the entire state. The facility is the reception center for males from the entire state. The facility is not located in a major city.
10. The facility is designed so that juveniles can be grouped according to a classification plan, for example, separating younger and older juveniles, and juveniles with serious personal injury offenses.	Yes for females. No for males, since it is a reception center for males.
01. Living units are primarily single bed sleeping rooms. Multiple occupancy rooms do not exceed 20% of the bed capacity of the unit.	Yes for females. No for males, who are housed primarily in two bed sleeping rooms.
03. Each sleeping room has at a minimum (a) sanitation facilities with access to toilet use without staff assistance 24 hours per day, (b) wash basins with hot and cold water, (c) a bed, desk, hook, or closet space, chair, or stool, (d) natural light within 20 feet of the room, (e) appropriate temperatures, (f) variety of space, surface textures and colors, (g) the beds are off the floor and have a clean, covered mattress with blankets as needed.	Yes, except for the bathroom facilities, which are located separately on the living units. Staff are required to unlock rooms for juveniles to use the bathroom facilities.
10. When there is a temporary Security Room separate from the living area, it is equipped with plumbing and security furniture. The room requires close staff observation.	Yes, except for plumbing. Woodson Unit provides a safe room and a glassed area for females.
11. If a facility houses male and female juveniles, space is provided for coeducational activities. Coeducational programs are preferred for normal growth and development through opportunities to socialize with peers of both genders.	Yes, but the males and females are separated for the majority of the activities.
04. Circulation is at least 15 cubic feet of outside or re-circulated filtered air per minute per occupant.	No. The majority of the living units are, except for Units A and B.
07. When males and females are housed in the facility, at least one male and one female staff member are on duty at all times.	N/A. Males and females are housed separately. In some instances, they may be supervised by the opposite sex staff, but strip searches are gender specific at intake and on the units.
01. A system of rewarding positive behavior of juveniles is provided.	Yes for female juveniles, who have a level system based on behavior. No for male juveniles, because their stay is too short.

<p>04. There is equal access of male and female to programs and services in co-ed facilities.</p>	<p>No. The facility is utilized as a reception center for male juveniles, so they have limited programming due to their short stay. The facility is utilized as a reception center and permanent facility for the female juveniles.</p>
<p>06. Juveniles are protected from abuse, punishment, injury, disease, property damage, and harassment. Administrative segregation should be used to protect juveniles from themselves or others.</p>	<p>Yes. The facility does not have a formal administrative segregation area like adult institutions, but youth can be separated.</p>
<p>08. Freedom in personal grooming and dress is provided except when a valid interest justifies otherwise.</p>	<p>Freedom in personal grooming and dress is limited. All juveniles wear t-shirts and pants on the unit, and shorts to recreation. They are required to have haircuts and no facial hair.</p>
<p>01. Special management with services and programs for juveniles with serious behavior problems and those requiring protective care is provided. An individual program plan is developed for youth in special management. Youth may be separated from general population in a Special Unit to allow for individual attention.</p>	<p>Yes. A Status Program and observation exist for juveniles who have identified chronic behaviors, during the intake process. Yes. An individual program plan is developed. No. A Special Unit does not exist. Juveniles may be separated and placed in a group room.</p>
<p>02. Placement may be immediate with review in 72 hours.</p>	<p>No. It is not an immediate placement, and the juvenile is reviewed daily. The juvenile's plan is reviewed in 30 days.</p>
<p>01. A Classification Manual contains policies and procedures made available to all staff involved in classification and is reviewed and updated annually.</p>	<p>No. The classification policies and procedures are contained in a DYS Manual, and are mostly applicable to the male juveniles. Classification is based on risk levels from high to low.</p>
<p>03. A written plan for classification specifies criteria and procedures for determining and changing the status of a juvenile. There are due process safeguards when classification reviews involve an increase in custody level or transfer to another facility or program that would adversely affect the juvenile.</p>	<p>N/A. The females are not transferred to another facility, unless they are to receive substance abuse programming at the Freedom Center. The females have privilege levels and age separations, but not true classification levels. A Special Management Plan is prepared for juveniles as needed. SJCF is the reception facility for male juveniles.</p>
<p>04. The classification plan provides program and status review at least monthly, with outcome documented.</p>	<p>N/A. A Special Management Plan lasts 30 days, and documentation is done at treatment team meetings.</p>

<p>08. Initial classification is completed within two weeks of admission and in one week of transfer to another facility: (a) They are assigned a program appropriate to their needs and interests, and (b) At initial classification, each juvenile is assigned to a staff member or unit team to ensure supervision and personal contact.</p>	<p>Yes for females and no for males. Initial classification occurs within two weeks for females, but takes longer for males. Females are not transferred after initial classification to another facility. Each juvenile is assigned a unit team and not a staff member to ensure supervision and personal contact. Males are assigned a program upon transfer to their parent facility.</p>
<p>01. A social services program is provided with a range of resources to meet the needs of juveniles, including individual, group, and family counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, and special offender treatment.</p>	<p>Yes for females and no for males.</p>
<p>02. Staff identify the collective service needs at least annually. Special programs to meet the needs of juveniles with specific types of problems are provided. Special programs include drug abusers, alcoholics, mentally ill, retarded, and gifted youth.</p>	<p>Yes for females. (Not males)</p>
<p>01. There is a comprehensive education program for juveniles.</p>	<p>Yes for females. No for males, since it is a reception center for males.</p>
<p>02. The following programs and services are provided. (a) Reception and orientation. (b) Evaluation and classification. (c) Educational programs. (a) Vocational/Job training. (b) Religious services and counseling. (c) Social services. (d) Psychological and psychiatric services. (e) Medical and Dental Health Care (programs to educate). (f) Athletic, recreational and leisure time activities. (g) Community groups. (h) Mail and visitation. (i) Access to media, legal material, attorneys, and courts. (j) Pre-release orientation and planning.</p>	<p>Yes for females. Limited for males, since it is a reception center for males.</p>
<p>03. Education/vocational training and work opportunities are available to all except when there is substantial evidence to justify otherwise.</p>	<p>Yes for females. No for males.</p>
<p>04. Educational/vocational counseling is provided for placement suited to their needs, with curriculum integrated to job assignments.</p>	<p>Some is provided for females. The facility just hired a new guidance counselor for females. No for males.</p>
<p>06. Juveniles without basic literacy skills are required to attend remedial education classes daily on regular school days.</p>	<p>Yes for females. No for males.</p>
<p>07. Prevocational training programs are integrated with academic programs and relevant to vocational needs of the juvenile and to job opportunities in the community.</p>	<p>Yes for females. No for males.</p>
<p>08. Provision is made to meet educational and vocational needs of juveniles who need special placements due to physical, mental, emotional handicaps, or learning disabilities.</p>	<p>Yes for females. Males' needs are addressed at their parent facility.</p>
<p>09. Community resources are used for vocational training programs.</p>	<p>Yes for females. No for males.</p>
<p>10. The facility uses academic and vocational programs in the community for selected juveniles.</p>	<p>No. Juveniles are not transported to programs in the community.</p>

14. There is an annual evaluation to measure the effectiveness of educational and vocational training programs against performance objectives, and submitted to the Superintendent for review.	Yes for females. No for males.
15. The juvenile training and work programs use the advice and assistance of labor, business, and industrial organizations. Advisory Boards or joint councils exist for that purpose.	Yes for females. No for males. All vocational classes have periodic meetings.
01. A facility of 50 or more juveniles has a full time qualified Recreation Director who plans and supervises all recreational programs. There is one recreation worker for each 15 juveniles in recreation.	Yes to the Recreation Director. No to the recreation to juvenile ratio. There are eight recreation worker positions in the facility.
02. The facility staff plans and promotes activities for participation by juveniles in community programs and services.	Yes for females. It has just started for females. No for males.
06. At least one hour per day of large muscle activity is provided. At least one hour per day of structured leisure time activities are provided. Organized and supervised recreation with one staff per 15 juveniles is provided as follows: (a) At least two hours on weekdays, and (b) at least three hours on weekends excluding TV time.	Yes to everything, except staff to juvenile ratio.
12. Provision is made for visits in pleasant surroundings with minimum surveillance to ensure privacy.	No. Visiting is in the Administration Building, and a larger space is needed.
03. Policy includes graduated release through a systematic decrease in supervision and increase in responsibility as part of the classification program. Provision is made for: (a) work/study release, (b) extended visits to family and community, (c) placement in a pre-release center or halfway house. Supervision is decreased and progress evaluated on behavioral criteria, not sentence, time served, or subjective judgments on attitude.	Yes to females. No to males. There is no provision for work/study release, extended visits to family/community, placement in a pre-release center or halfway house. The other components of the standard are being worked on.

Inspection on December 21, 2005

Type of Inspection: Unannounced

CIIC Member and Staff Present: Representative Michael DeBose
Richard Spence, Inspector

Facility Staff Present: Robert Pritchett, Superintendent
Mark Bratton, Deputy of Programs for Males
Nan Hoff, Deputy of Programs for Females
Dr. Monique Marrow, DYS Deputy Director,
Division of Treatment and Rehabilitative
Services

Programs for Males

A lengthy discussion was held with the Deputy of Programs for Males, regarding existing, future, and proposed programming for male youth. It was noted that SJCF is the male reception center in the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS), and that programming had been limited to education classes, but the need for additional programming for male youth is needed.

Education

It was noted that the law requires that youth have to start attending school after their initial ten days of incarceration. It is projected that a youth will remain at the reception center for approximately 21-35 days, but the current average stay ranges from 45-60 days, due to the availability of beds at the other ODYS facilities and the length of time to complete the reception process. It was noted that some youth are kept at SJCF for an additional period of time due to special reasons, which include medical reasons, court requests, and scheduled appointments. The average stay for the month of November was 49 days. Youth are required to have four school periods per day that provide education in Math, English, Science and Social Studies. It was relayed that they have had logistical problems in conducting classes, because of a lack of space, and the lack of social studies and science teachers.

Other Programs

It was relayed that Christine Money, who was recently hired by ODYS, has been developing a variety of programs, including Faith Based Initiative Programs, which provide volunteers to work with the youth in the evening, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The programs are in the initial stages, and she has been working to get volunteer coordinators for the youth in the evening.

A computer lab for male youth on each unit has been developed, with the use of volunteer computers. There are presently six to eight computers per unit, with the goal to get 20 computers per unit, even in the reception unit.

The Doctor Memory Program, which is a program designed and taught by Jerry Lucas, a former college and professional basketball star, has been initiated at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for the male youth. The program provides for learning through visual imaging. The program will be available for every unit.

Proposed Programming

According to the Deputy of Programs for Males, a Substance Abuse Program, a Victim Awareness Program, and a Thinking for Change Program will be added to the male programming. Youth Idleness Teams are being developed to establish a recreation activity wheel to reduce idleness. The activities will include writing letters, community service, and computer lab. A Youth Point Level System will be developed for male youth to provide a day-to-day assessment of their behavior in areas such as education, hygiene, and rule compliance. It will provide incentives such as use of the swimming pool, use of Play Station Games, candy, and pop for a youth's positive behavior. Team Meetings for youths with problems have been proposed to provide programming for the youths.

Programs for Females

A lengthy discussion occurred with the Deputy of Programs for Females, and Department of Youth Services Deputy Director of the Division of Treatment and Rehabilitative Services regarding existing, future, and proposed programming. The Deputy of Programs also shared information concerning current operations and conditions at the facility.

Education

Youth are required by law to have four school periods per day that provide education in Math, English, Science, and Social Studies. Youth are also provided other classes such as Keyboarding, Parenting, Music, Personal Development, United States/World Studies, and Physical Education. The female youth attend their classes in the William K. Willis High School. Staff are working to improve school attendance by addressing youth who skip class.

The Doctor Memory Program, which is a program designed and taught by Jerry Lucas, former college and professional basketball star, has been initiated at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for the female youth. The program provides for learning through visual imaging. The program will be available for every unit.

Recreation

A new Recreation Administrator has been hired who thinks “outside the box” and has developed new recreation activities such as African Dance, Aerobics, Jump Rope, and Basket Weaving, in addition to current recreation activities such as swimming, basketball, volleyball, and calisthenics. Large muscle exercise occurs on the unit, in addition to the gym, which is open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. They have new rooms for ceramic art. They have a master gardener that comes in to work with the youth, and one of their projects is to decorate small Christmas trees. They received a grant with the Art Safe Program in October 2005 to create art expression and feeling murals.

Other Programs

Thinking for Change is provided for all female youth. The nine social workers are trained in the program and teachers and treatment team members are provided an overview of the program. The program identifies high-risk thoughts and feelings and addresses them.

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility has received a grant to have a representative from Choices, a program for battered women, come in on a part-time basis. The representative presently only works with victims of battering.

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility presently has an alliance with a wild life center for a female to bring in animals. The females in the transition unit do community service with baby squirrels and baby ducks, and have taken a trip to the wild life center.

The Kids Program provides drug education and substance abuse programming to youth. The program involves the youth completing 12 booklets and maintaining a journal. A new Social Worker now operates the program.

The Victorian Tea Program is a religious-based program where women serve as models for female youth. The women volunteers are from the Akron area, and they participate in tea and cookies social events and Christmas scrambles. The Opening Hearts, Opening Minds Program is a religious-based program that provides conflict resolution. Women volunteers meet with female youth every Wednesday. The Catholic Social Services conducts the Parenting Program on a weekly basis. It is conducted on a volunteer basis, and is more intense than previous parenting programs.

The Loft Program is for special needs female youth in the Transition Program. The psychologist supervises this program.

A computer lab for female youth on each unit has been developed, with the use of donated computers. There are presently six to eight computers per unit, with the goal to have 20 computers per unit.

Twenty-five female youth entered projects in the Depth of Feelings Program. The projects included activities such as singing, dancing, and drawing.

Unit administrators utilize an Activity Wheel to organize activities, such as puzzles, games, videos, and letter writing on the units.

Family Day was on December 20, 2005. Family Day allows a family to visit their youth for up to six hours based on the youth's behavior for the quarter year, and to take part in different activities. The most recent family day included a performance by a jazz trio. Family Day occurs four times per year.

An Epiphany meeting was conducted the week prior to the inspection.

Proposed Programs

The Social Worker Supervisor is working with the Program Administrator to develop new programs for the female youth. They are also working with the executive staff for faith-based programming development. There will be greater changes in programming within the next six months.

Treatment Teams

Treatment Teams, which consist of unit staff members, teachers and psychology staff, meet each week to discuss a youth's treatment. The unit staff members include juvenile correction officers, who can assist in programming. The treatment team meets with the female youth at least once per month.

Youth Council

The Youth Council meets two times per month to address female youth issues. An example of an issue addressed is one type and size of feminine hygiene products. Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility now provides female youth with different types and sizes of feminine hygiene products, which includes the use of tampons after taking a class.

Privilege Levels for Female Youth

A privilege level system, which is based on a point system for youth behavior, exists for the female youth. The youth may attain one of three levels, which are bronze, silver, and gold, and are assigned colored shirts based on their level. Youth who attain the gold level receive the most privileges, and are allowed to make a monthly wish concerning an activity. Seventeen females, who attain a point total between 80 and 85, are allowed to attend a special monthly luncheon with staff.

Staffing Changes for Female Youth

The Social Worker Supervisor position has been filled. The individual selected has certification and extensive experience in social work and substance abuse. Four new Social Workers have been hired, which fills the facility's nine Social Worker positions for female youth. Two contract Psychologist positions and a Psychology Assistant position will be filled in January 2006.

Staff Training

Trauma Training was initiated for staff in November 2005. The curriculum for the training was prepared by a group of selected staff. Suicidal Youth Training is being provided to unit staff. There are four instructors, who provide the three-hour training.

General Statements Regarding Operations and Conditions

It was relayed that staff are continuing to work to improve operations and conditions at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, and there is more staff team building occurring. Youth are not being pulled from programming as a sanction for violating facility rules. The housing units are cleaner, and hygiene has improved. The meals and recreation are occurring in a timelier manner.

Interview with Female Juvenile

The juvenile's mother voiced the following concerns regarding her daughter at the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee meeting on December 14, 2005:

- Her daughter's release date had been extended by the Ohio Department of Youth Services' (ODYS) Release Authority for a period of 120 days on two occasions.
- Her daughter had attempted suicide on two occasions while at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, and she had not received any psychological treatment.
- Her daughter entered the ODYS on June 28, 2004 as a ninth grade student, and was still at the ninth grade level.
- Her daughter had not received much programming while at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility.
- The mother questioned if her daughter had actually committed approximately \$1,000 in damage to property at SJCF.
- The mother questioned the "double jeopardy" aspect of her daughter being assessed more time to serve by the ODYS Release Authority for her behavior at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, and also having charges filed for the same behavior in the Delaware County Juvenile Court.
- The mother was concerned that her daughter's treatment team, which she stated was not made up of professionals, had submitted a different release recommendation than her daughter's Social Workers.

Information regarding the above concerns was obtained through an interview with the female juvenile, discussion with Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility and Department of Youth Services Central Office staff, and written material provided by facility and Central Office Staff.

The ODYS Release Authority assessed the female juvenile an additional 120 days to serve in July 2005, due to the female juvenile becoming upset in class and throwing piano keyboards in July 2005, which resulted in approximately \$1,000 in damage. The ODYS Release Authority assessed the female juvenile an additional 120 days to serve in October 2005, due to the female juvenile becoming upset with a Juvenile Correction Officer for not permitting her to enter her room, and throwing a microwave and biting the Officer on the hand in August 2005. The Department of Youth Services has the statutory authority to maintain custody of a juvenile until their twenty-first birthday, based on their adjustment in the ODYS. The female juvenile was 17 years old at the time of the interview, and had continued to exhibit aggressive behavior while at SJCF.

The female juvenile admitted to the CIIC member and staff that she had feigned suicide on two separate occasions, so she could get away from problems she was having with other juveniles in her living unit. She stated she had previously seen psychology staff, but she was not seeing them currently because she was doing fine. Facility and Central Office Staff indicated that she has had 25 contacts, which include precautionary status contacts, individual contacts, consultation contacts, and reception mental health appraisal contact with Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility Psychology staff, since her admission.

Facility and Central Office staff presented information that the female juvenile was a grade level nine student, who had not earned any credits during the 2003-2004 school year, when she entered SJCF. She has earned 3.125 credits since her admission on June 28, 2004.

The female juvenile and facility staff indicated that she had completed the Anger Management Program, Struggle to Be Strong Program, and Victim Awareness Program, in addition to her group meetings. She has requested to participate in the Art Safe Program.

The Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility Superintendent indicated that the Ohio State Highway Patrol, during the course of their investigation, determined the amount of property damage as a result of the female juvenile's actions. The property damage amount was reported to approximate \$1,000.

ODYS Legal Services indicated that "double jeopardy" does not statutorily exist by the Delaware County Prosecutor filing criminal charges against the female juvenile for destruction of property and assault on a juvenile correction officer, and the ODYS Release Authority assessing an additional 240 days to serve based on the same behavior. The Ohio State Highway Patrol investigates any criminal behavior by a juvenile in the ODYS, and submits their investigation to the County Prosecutor, who determines if charges will be filed against the juvenile. The ODYS Release Authority determines when release is appropriate for a juvenile based on numerous factors, including behavior within the facility.

Facility and Central Office staff indicated that the treatment teams are composed of Unit staff and other professional staff. The Social Workers are part of the Unit staff that comprise the Treatment Teams, and submit the unified case plan to the ODYS Release Authority.

Inspection on May 25, 2006

On May 25, 2006, the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee conducted an unannounced inspection of the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. The inspection was a follow-up to the on-site visit on August 9, 2005, the inspection of December 21, 2005, and a follow-up to the reported concerns expressed in public testimony to the CIIC at the CIIC meeting of May 10, 2006.

Inspection Type	Unannounced
CIIC Member and Staff Present:	Representative Michael DeBose Director Shirley Pope Inspector Gregory Geisler Inspector Adam Jackson Inspector Carol Robison Inspector Joanna Saul Inspector Richard Spence
Facility Staff Present:	Superintendent Amy Ast Deputy Supt. Vince Spurlock (Various additional staff throughout the facility)

In the conversations with the youth, they reported several concerns regarding the grievance procedure, such as grievance forms are frequently not available in the units, grievances are not answered, or the answers provided do not provide any resolution to their issue. In response to these allegations, Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility staff relayed that the Grievance Coordinator picks up the grievances from the locked grievance boxes and replenishes the forms every day. The staff also relayed that there is a person assigned to fulfill the duties of the Grievance Coordinator as a back up when the Grievance Coordinator is not available.

The youth expressed several other issues regarding their housing units and the staff assigned to each. Although the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility is a reception center for males, and is a permanent location for females, numerous youth still complained of “idleness” in their units. Many of the female youth complained that they had no activities to do after they had completed their school classes, while some boys complained of not having any schooling or activities to do at all.

Other areas of concern expressed by the youth include lack of phone time, and outgoing calls are allegedly blocked to certain regions of the state. Several youth relayed complaints regarding staff demeanor, complained of some being terse, and relayed frequent complaints of staff speaking to youth in an inappropriate manner. Some complained that they miss early morning appointments because staff do not notify the youth about the correct appointment times.

While some of the showers and restrooms had the same issues with mold previously noted in the on-site visit in August 2005, some were noticeably improved.

Some youth, who do not have any family to send them money, would like to see a system in place to approve non-family individuals to send money to youth.

The Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility staff shared the new training for staff response to critical incidents. This is a clear improvement in affecting a culture of change at the institution. A staff Psychologist teaches the Critical Incident Management course. The course requires 40 hours of annual training each year for all staff, which includes unit management and administration. The course focuses on how staff should address confrontational situations.

The overall demeanor of the youth appeared to be different from the August 2005 on-site visit. In August 2005, the youth appeared to be less open and more uncomfortable in communicating with CIIC staff. In the conversations with youth during the May 2006 inspection, the female offenders in particular, candidly expressed their concerns to CIIC staff.

Exit Meeting with the Superintendent: In the CIIC exit meeting with the Superintendent and administrative staff, CIIC staff relayed the concerns expressed by the youth and the unit staff. The Superintendent discussed how the issues and concerns would be addressed by her administration.

In regard to the allegations of staff misconduct and use of force in restraining the youth, the Superintendent noted that Use of Force reports are down from the previous year. In addition to the decrease in Use of Force, the Superintendent has seen an improvement in staff morale, attributed to new and consistent leadership from the Administrative staff and the accreditation they have received from the American Correctional Association.

According to the Superintendent, prior to October 2005, there was no priority placed on hiring new Juvenile Correction Officers. Prior to October 2005, the security staff worked an additional 30 hours to the 40 regular hours on a weekly basis. The Department of Youth Services made a commitment to aggressive hiring practices to relieve the situation.

In addition to the increase in the hiring of Juvenile Correction Officers, the Superintendent relayed that Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility hired a Social Work Supervisor who works intently with the youth to boost incentives for good behavior. However, the Superintendent relayed that more incentives need to be developed for the male youth.

Although the Juvenile Correction Officer in the school building requested an improvement in communication between the security staff and the administrative staff, the Superintendent indicated that the Union and the Administrative staff work effectively together to discipline assaultive youth.

In regard to the concerns expressed by the male youth regarding the lack of education classes, the Superintendent relayed that Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility was in the process of increasing the amount of daily class time from one hour to four hours per day.

Overall, the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility showed major improvement in facility maintenance since the on-site visit in August 2005. The upgrades to the gymnasium floor, recreation room, and showers were impressive. It was very encouraging that the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility has invested thousands of dollars in upgrading the facility. Although some maintenance issues still remain, such as the mold on the bathroom walls, the facility upgrades provide more opportunity for the youth to participate in constructive activities.

The improvements are not enough to change what has been referred to as “the culture” that exists at the institution. Improvements to the gymnasium and education building yield minimal benefit if the youth spend a minimal amount of time outside of their housing units, if they are not provided a full hour of recreation on a daily basis, and if the classroom hours are not increased for the male juveniles.

The issues and concerns expressed by both youth and staff in August 2005 have not changed. Because the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility houses both male and female juveniles, the institution faces a broader range of issues that no other DYS facility faces. On the same day, administrative and security staff may face allegations of sexual assault from female juveniles and older male youth “preying” upon younger male juveniles. While the female juveniles are attending class most of the day, the male juveniles sit “idle” in their rooms waiting to be transferred to their parent institution.

Because the facility serves as a parent institution for the female juveniles and as reception only for the male juveniles, more time and money is placed on the programming for the females. Although the DYS website states the average length of stay for the male juveniles is supposed to be 21-35 days, many of the youth have been at the facility for 45 days or longer. Due to the length of time the male juveniles actually stay at the institution, it would be in the best interest of the facility to increase the class time and implement programs. For instance, if the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility could offer classes or programs as an introduction to programs they may be required to take at their parent facility, the youth would be more active during the day and get a jump start on his education. Since many youth are ordered by the judge to successfully complete programs (i.e. anger management or alcohol and other drug) in order to be released, implementing programs at Scioto would allow the youth to start receiving the program while waiting to be transferred to their parent facility. Once transferred, the youth would already have completed a portion of the required hours so they can be released on time. Programs in fact promote safety within correctional environments.

One issue that was stated numerous times by both female and male youth and the staff were safety concerns. Once again, these concerns were also expressed during the August 2005 on-site visit. Both the youth and the security staff seem to feel threatened by the

other. On one level, the relationship or challenge seems to be based on establishing power, authority, or control over another.

Identified Issues and Concerns

The following concerns and issues were identified through the May 25, 2006 inspection:

Facility-Wide Concerns

- **Idleness Experienced by Juveniles and Need for Additional Programming and Activities**

The facility serves as the Department of Youth Services Reception Center for male juveniles. The reception/intake process for the males is designed to last 21 days, and thus programming and other activities have not been key components in the male juveniles schedule. In reality, the average stay for males at the facility has reportedly been 40 or more days, with the average, as of May 31, 2006, being 40 days. There have been reported cases where male juveniles are at the reception center for 90 or more days, due to medical, mental health, or juvenile court-related reasons. Some cases have been verified in which juveniles have been in reception at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for six months.

The males average weekday includes a 45 minute education class, one hour of recreation, and three meals, which for many males leaves 10 plus hours of sitting on their unit. On weekends, that time often increases due to being off from school. Institution staff stated that four new teachers and a principal would be added to the boys' school (Scioto River High School), to allow the males to attend school four to six hours per day by October 2006. Additional programs and activities for the males, especially on the units, need to be provided even after the expansion of the school program.

Reception functions do not preclude programming. Rather than view the time at Scioto JCF for boys as a time to be processed and to wait for transfer to his assigned facility, the time at Scioto JCF should make the absolute most of programming possibilities in-between the reception status assessments, which typically consume a small portion of juvenile's days, weeks and months while in reception status.

The facility serves as the female reception center and the permanent institution for the girls. (The Freedom Treatment Center provides drug programming for approximately 20 girls.) Education via William K. Willis High School, programming groups, recreation, and meals reportedly occupy most of the females' daytime hours. Activities are scheduled for their early evening hours, but it appears a number of females choose not to participate in these activities, which lead to reports of idleness and boredom for several hours. There were reports of excessive idleness on weekends, holidays, and during intersession, due to the absence of education and group programming. Additional programs and activities for females, especially on the units, need to be provided.

- **Institution Jobs for Juveniles**

There are limited paying jobs for the female population and none for the male population. There are also limited non-paying jobs in the institution. The development of additional jobs would benefit the juveniles and help to address idleness

- **Treatment of Juveniles by Juvenile Correction Officers**

The juveniles voiced concerns about juvenile correction officers' behavior, especially the second shift juvenile correction officers. The juveniles stated that some officers frequently use abusive language, which includes name-calling, belittling language, and yelling, in talking to the juveniles. The juveniles stated that group punishment is often used to address one or a few juveniles' behavior. They stated that the group punishment includes making the juveniles stand outside their room doors, making youth go inside their rooms, locking youth in their rooms, making youth sit quietly in the common area of the unit, making all the youth return to their unit, and delaying youth on the unit when they are scheduled for recreation.

The juveniles stated that some juvenile correction officers do not respond in a timely manner, when the juveniles have to go to the bathroom and are locked in their rooms during sleeping hours and early waking hours. The juveniles stated that some officers show favoritism or racial bias to some youth on the units, which results in some youth receiving extra privileges. The juveniles stated some officers are zealous when they are applying restraints.

- **Staff/Youth Relationship**

The relationship between the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility staff and the youth continues to be an issue of concern. Both the female and male youth openly spoke of issues they had with staff including disrespect, excessive force, and inappropriate supervision. In addition, some youth expressed concern that they only see their Social Worker once per month. Many youth rely on the Social Worker to provide guidance that they believe is not accessible from other staff.

- **The Grievance Procedure**

The juveniles stated they are not satisfied with the grievance procedure. They stated that the grievance procedure is not taken seriously by staff, and is often a waste of time. They stated that staff that process the grievances rarely talk to youth about the grievances they file and their responses to the grievances are vague. The juveniles stated the responses to the grievances are non-solutions. They stated an example of a response is "will talk to staff and action will not occur again". They stated that staff do not modify their behavior and they perform the grieved action again. The juveniles stated that grievance forms are not available at all times on the units.

- **Medical Services**

Some juveniles stated that sometimes there was a delay of one day to multiple days in being seen for sick call after signing up for it. Some juveniles noted that if they did not stand alphabetically in the medicine line before meals that they experienced problems in getting their medication.

- **Food Service**

The juveniles stated the quality of the food needed to improve. They stated that some food is not totally cooked, the temperature of the food is not always correct, and items are sometimes found in the food. They stated there is a lack of variation in the meals, with the breakfast menu remaining constant. They stated that some juveniles, especially the male juveniles, take other juveniles' food during meal periods, which is called "taxing". Some female juveniles stated that they should be able to receive the same size portions as the male juveniles. The inspection occurred during a "brown bag lunch day", where food service provided brown bag lunches for the youth to eat on their units, due to meetings being conducted by food service staff. It was observed in different units, and stated by juveniles that some of the lunches did not have the proper number of sandwiches or were missing other items. The juveniles indicated that their snacks arrive late at times, and they have to eat them in their rooms.

- **Absent Without Leave Books on the Units**

Juveniles on some units stated and revealed that there is an absent without leave book, which contains identifying information, such as the offenses the juveniles committed, located in conspicuous areas in the unit. They stated that the location of the book and the handling of the book by staff allowed some juveniles to find out what offenses other juveniles committed. They stated that juveniles who committed sex offenses are usually picked on by the other youth.

- **Cleanliness and Facility Maintenance**

The cleanliness and facility maintenance showed a marked improvement from the previous on-site visit and inspection. The cleanliness of the bathrooms on the units still needs improvement. Multiple bathrooms were observed with dirty walls, and some were observed with mold. The juveniles noted problems with ants, when they are required to eat snacks or any meals in their rooms. Staff indicated that the block walls are difficult to clean and that they maintain moisture. They stated they are in the process of trying to have the bathroom walls tiled. They stated they have exterminators scheduled on a regular basis.

- **Institution Count Procedure**

The juveniles and staff voiced concerns about the institution count procedure, especially the length of time it takes to complete a count. They stated that the counts delay the

schedule for school, groups, and meals throughout the day. The Superintendent indicated that they are implementing a new count procedure, which has caused delays during the initial implementation period.

- **Telephones**

Juveniles stated that the telephones on the units did not work all the time, when they were trying to call home. They stated that they could not connect to certain parts of the state, there were blocks on their home phones, and not all the personal identification numbers were in the system. The Superintendent stated that the facility is changing over to a new phone system, and it has created some problems.

Male Youth Concerns

- **Population Size and Overcrowding**

The male juvenile population has dramatically increased since the previous on-site visit and inspection. The average monthly male population for May 2006 was 229.5 male juveniles, and the male population as of May 31, 2006 was 207 male juveniles. Staff indicated the increase was due to limited available beds at other facilities due to continued renovation projects, the elimination of double rooms at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the average length of time for a youth to complete the reception process. The facility's resources are not designed to properly accommodate 200 plus males. It is noted that the expansion of the education program for males projected for October 2006 is designed to accommodate 140 males.

- **Length of the Intake Stage**

Staff indicated the intake process is designed to be 21 days in length, but the present average is 40 days and sometimes increases to the mid-forty day range. Staff indicates the lack of available beds at parent facilities and juveniles who are housed at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for special reasons, such as accommodating the Court, increase the average length of stay in the intake stage. A longer stay in the intake stage allows a youth to experience more idle time, and the problems associated with it.

- **Gang Issues**

Staff indicated that gang-related activity has increased over the past year. They stated the gangs are organized by their area codes, and not nationally organized gangs. They stated that attempts are made to separate juveniles from the same city, based on available space.

Female Youth Concerns

- **William K. Willis High School**

There were limited education classes being held, with single digit attendance in many of the classes. Substitute teachers were teaching several of the classes. The morale of some of the teachers appeared to be low. Staff indicated the present master schedule has school and program groups scheduled simultaneously, which limit the number of classes conducted at any time, and the number of students in the class.

Staff stated the master schedule would be changing in July 2006, with school and groups scheduled at mutually exclusive times, to address this issue. Staff indicated that several of the teachers were on leave, which resulted in the use of substitutes. They stated the teachers' contract will change in October 2006, and result in teachers only being allowed to use leave time during intercession.

- **Limited Unit Housing**

Female juvenile offenders are assigned to one of only four housing units. The female population has increased by single digits since the previous on-site visit and inspection, and was 103 as of May 31, 2006. The Allman Unit is the unit that houses the female youth in the intake/orientation process and the older females in the transition program, with a temporary partition separating the two groups of females. The Buckeye Unit is utilized as the mental health unit. The Hunter Unit houses the younger females. The Davey Unit houses older females and contains the suicide watch rooms. The juveniles stated there are separation issues that exist due to the limited units.

- **Youth Relationships**

Juveniles stated that approximately 80 percent of the females have "girlfriends." They stated that the majority of the disturbances and arguments stem from these relationship issues.

Specific Unit Concerns and Issues

Female Population Unit Concerns

Allman Unit: The females in the transition to independent living program stated that there was a reduction in the amount of transition programming they are receiving.

Hunter Unit: Several juveniles indicated that some of the staff create a negative environment, based on what and how they communicate to the juveniles. Juveniles reported that juveniles, who are picked as favorites, are allowed to run the showers, which results in some juveniles having limited shower time and receiving youth behavior incident reports. Juveniles reported that evening snacks are passed out late, which forces the juveniles to eat them in their rooms. Juveniles reported that the bathrooms are usually dirty, and juveniles do not properly dispose of feminine hygiene products.

Buckeye Unit: Juveniles reported that there is usually a problem with ants and spiders on the unit. Three juveniles were observed playing with a spider. Juveniles stated the bathrooms are usually dirty. It was observed that one bathroom had mold on the shower wall, and another bathroom had walls with paint chipped off and poor lighting.

Davey Unit: Juveniles reported that some staff are disrespectful and call them names. Juveniles reported that one juvenile correction officer restrains youth without being on the camera.

Male Population Unit Concerns

Cedar Unit: Juveniles reported a major lack of activities to do on the unit. Juveniles gave specific information about an alleged “undercover racist” juvenile correction officer. Juveniles reported not having a social worker for three to four weeks. One bathroom had poor lighting.

Sycamore Unit: Sycamore unit youth relayed concerns about lack of activity. Mold was observed in the bathroom facilities.

Woodson Unit: This is the initial reception unit for male juveniles. The box for the security threat group profile forms that are completed on incoming juveniles was overflowing with completed forms. The box was unattended by staff and easily observable to youth.

Boone Unit: This is the post intake unit for male juveniles. Juveniles complained of being extremely bored, and only being off the unit for two hours per day. The juveniles wished for more outside recreation and activities on the unit. Juveniles reported having to wear the same clothes for a week.

Jefferson Unit: Juveniles indicated that one juvenile correction officer waits until all the juveniles are quiet, before letting a juvenile out of his room to use the bathroom. Juveniles indicated that one juvenile correction officer calls them names, some of which are racist, and tells them what negative actions will happen to them when they transfer to

their parent institution. Juveniles stated that some first shift juvenile correction officers tell them to ask second shift officers about resolving issues and vice versa. One bathroom had a hole in the ceiling, and another had mold on the wall. One room had broken floor tiles.

Carver Unit: Youth complained of bugs and a lack of airflow through the vents. Juveniles also complained of having nothing to do and not having any books to read.

Mail

While in the Jefferson Housing Unit, two youth relayed that they are not permitted to write a letter to their father because their parents are incarcerated. One youth's parent was reportedly incarcerated at the Lebanon Correctional Institution in Lebanon, Ohio. The other youth's parent was reportedly at an Oklahoma work center. The young boys seemed very saddened about the reported prohibition.

When this issue was discussed in the closing with Administrative staff, it was clarified that in fact, there is a policy of the Department of Youth Services on the subject, DYS policy number 3-JTS-5H-01 titled Mail. According to B.7 of the policy, "Correspondence with offenders in a juvenile facility is prohibited unless approval has been granted by the Superintendent. Correspondence with a parent or guardian in an adult facility is prohibited unless approval has been granted by the Superintendent." B.8 states that, "Youth are not permitted to correspond at any time with the victim of their crime."

In contrast, in the adult prison system, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has a long-standing policy, specified in Administrative Rule 5120-9-18 titled "Outgoing Mail," which states, "There shall be no limitation on the number of letters that an inmate may send, nor shall there be any restrictions as to persons with whom an inmate may correspond, except as provided in this rule." In that regard, section (F) of the Administrative Rule specifies that, "Inmates are prohibited from sending any letter...To any person who the inmate has been advised has notified the warden that he or she is being harassed by the inmate and does not want to receive letters from the inmate."

The "Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility Youth Handbook Male Reception" includes a section on Correspondence on page 12. The subsection on Mail states, "You may receive mail from anyone except youth or adults in other correctional institutions (except parents)." The subsection on Outgoing Mail states:

You may write anyone you wish while at SJCF except people who are incarcerated in other correctional institutions.

While the DYS policy includes a provision whereby youth may correspond with offenders in a juvenile facility or with a parent or guardian in an adult facility only with approval of the Superintendent, the handbook provides no such clarification or direction regarding the policy. The youth who spoke with the CIIC had no such knowledge of such a provision. No youth at the facility appeared to have a handbook.

Further, the ACA standards discussion with the Administrative staff in the May 2005 on-site visit included discussion of ACA standards or recommendations pertaining to policy and procedure manuals.

- Regarding whether policies and procedures for operating and maintaining the facility are specified in a manual accessible to all employees and the public reviewed annually and updated, the response was “Yes to staff. They are available on-line for staff. They are not available to the public.”
- Regarding whether a manual for standard operating procedures is available to employees, reviewed and updated annually, the response was, “Yes. It is available through Central Office.”
- Regarding whether new and revised policies and procedures are disseminated to staff, volunteers, and when appropriate, to juveniles prior to implementation, the response was, “No. Policies and procedures are not always disseminated to staff. They are usually disseminated during training and instruction. They are not provided to juveniles.”

A subject as important as mail ought to be in Administrative Rule form, accessible to the public, facility staff, and to the youth. Since the CIIC’s inception in 1978, many veteran employees of the adult prison system have emphasized to CIIC the importance of mail and visits to the inmate population. There is no reason to believe that they would be any less important to children who are incarcerated. If in fact it is possible to obtain the Superintendent’s approval of a request to write one’s parent who is incarcerated, the handbook should explain how, and be consistent with the policy. Plus, facility staff should be responsible to assist the youth in communicating or processing such request. One facility staff person indicated to CIIC that it is just a matter of facility staff contacting the prison’s warden to get permission or authorization. As shown above, the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has no prohibition or restriction between an inmate sending or receiving mail from his child. Further, the DYS policy only speaks of permission from the DYS facility superintendent yet fails to provide any guidance as to the basis of denial or granting such a request. Lastly, at no time during the DYS facility inspections or on-site visits, did CIIC observe a location in which written policies were accessible to staff and/or to youth.

In follow-up communication from DYS staff, it was relayed that:

Youth are allowed to send out as many letters as they want to send, as long as they pay for them. We provide as much writing paper as they request. ODYS provides envelopes and pays for two letters to be sent by each youth, each week. {508.01, page 2/3, effective August 13, 2001 }

...Standard Operating Procedure 508.01.01, page 5/7, effective August 13, 2001...states in pertinent part:

“Due to safety and security concerns for youth, staff, the institution, and the community, youth are not permitted to correspond with or receive correspondence for other incarcerated persons, either juvenile or adult, unless that person is an immediate family member...” This protocol is system-wide (brothers and sisters correspond between ODYS facilities) and mirrors the ODRC inmate protocol for requesting permission to correspond with other incarcerated individuals through their respective Warden.

“The verification of an “immediate family member” shall be made by the Deputy Superintendent of Direct Services or designee within five (5) business days of receipt of any incoming or outgoing mail from or to either another juvenile or adult institution or jail.”

“If the person is an immediate family member, the correspondence shall be forwarded unless the immediate family member has a record of abusing or otherwise harming the youth.” The administrative verification of the familial relationship also provides opportunity for assessment of the clinical appropriateness of the correspondence.

Overview as of July 19, 2006 CIIC Meeting

In the CIIC Director’s Progress Report and Staff Briefing to the CIIC at the July 19, 2006 meeting, information was provided regarding the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. At the previous CIIC meeting on May 10, 2006, persons who provided public testimony to the CIIC relayed disturbing allegations regarding operations and conditions at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Shortly thereafter, Representative DeBose and Committee staff conducted an unannounced inspection of the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility on May 25, 2006. In addition, an unannounced inspection with Representative DeBose and Committee staff occurred on December 21, 2005. Further, the facility received an on-site visit by Committee staff on August 9, 2005. Additional on-site visits were made to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for program purposes. That is, CIIC Inspector Carol Robison attended and participated in the Opening Hearts Program for females at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility on the following dates: January 4, 2006, January 18, 2006, February 1, 2006, February 15, 2006, March 1, 2006, March 15, 2006, and May 1, 2006.

In the July 19, 2006 briefing to the CIIC, the CIIC Director reported the following, which serves as a brief summary of findings, to conclude this report:

August 2005 On-Site Visit:

- Our first visit to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility did in fact reveal visible problems regarding idleness and related youth misconduct affecting other youth and facility staff.
- The morale of staff was extremely low at the time. Officers expressed an inability to effectively control disruptive youth, given the limited consequence of short periods of time in seclusion.
- While youth expressed concerns regarding use of force by officers, there were more reported concerns expressed by youth about officers reportedly doing nothing to intervene, when they needed staff help to control other youth.
- Further, the August visit revealed a definite need for improvement in maintenance and sanitation, specifically in the restrooms.

May 25, 2006 Inspection:

- Based on the recent inspection, significant, visible improvements have occurred since the December inspection and August on-site visit:
- The facility has a new Superintendent with leadership qualities and a commitment to excellence. On July 17th it was further reported that a Deputy of Direct Services has been hired to fill the prior vacancy, and a Deputy of Programs has been hired to focus on developing programs for the boys.
- In March 2006 the facility was awarded ACA accreditation.
- Maintenance and sanitation needs have been addressed.
- Staff morale is much improved. The expressed frustration of staff has been replaced with knowledge of continued improvements and confidence in their administration.
- Youth idleness has been reduced, with increased activities and programs.
- Staff and youth still report too much idleness, especially on second shift.
- In October, education for the boys in reception status will increase from one to four periods per day.
- Tension and anger among the youth in August is no longer pervasive. However, youth still cite safety as their greatest concern.
- Youth still relayed concerns regarding use of force incidents. Some do not trust the staff because of what they have reportedly witnessed or experienced in the past.

Letter to CIIC Chairman from DYS Director

In a letter of May 26, 2006 from the DYS Director to the CIIC Chairman, the DYS Director relayed the following, which includes specific reference to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility:

I feel compelled to respond to testimony given at the CIIC meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, by members of various interest groups, regarding the operations and reform efforts underway at the Department of Youth Services.

Since being appointed director of DYS about a year and a half ago, we have embarked on an aggressive agenda of change and cooperation, working closely with this Committee, the Department of Justice, many advocacy groups, community organizations and the General Assembly, to become more effective and more transparent in our operations. Initiatives such as Back to Basics, the Prison Rape Elimination Act, and facility vulnerability assessments have worked to decrease the incidents of physical, sexual and verbal assaults. We are continuing our efforts to increase youth accountability to help us effectively deal with disruptive and assaultive youth who negatively affect our efforts to rehabilitate our population. We have increased the programming available to youth in our facilities in order to meet the many needs of our challenging population and to decrease idle time. We are working diligently to provide more training options for staff to effectively deal with disruptive youth. As a result, we have made our institutions significantly safer for both youth and staff, moving away from the conditions that existed that others perceived caused the “adulthoodification” of DYS over the last decade.

Likewise, in the last year and a half we have put a new face on the agency to ensure these and other changes are effectively implemented. Seven of our eight facility superintendents are new to their jobs. Five of six regional parole administrators and a number of our senior staff are new to their positions. In addition, countless middle management and line staff personnel changes have been made to affect change at all levels of the Department.

In addition to these system-wide changes, we have worked hard at our Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility in Delaware County to ensure additional changes that will create a climate that is conducive to programming and rehabilitation. For example, we have added new programs for both the girls population and the boys there for reception and intake, and we have started the process of adding teachers to the facility to give boys increased classroom education time and decrease idle time. As a result of these and other changes, I am pleased to announce that Scioto recently received national accreditation through the American

Correctional Association (ACA), a feat many said was impossible a little over a year ago.

Many of our reforms and efforts at DYS are a work in progress. Even with our aggressive agenda for reform, all changes do not and cannot happen overnight. Sometime over the next few months, the United States Department of Justice will issue reports detailing the conditions at certain facilities, as they existed from the summer of 2005 and before. DYS and DOJ will utilize those reports to form written agreements memorializing DYS's long-term commitment to the new procedures, initiatives, programs, and progress that have been implemented and will be implemented.

It is ironic that while several individuals were testifying at the recent CIIC meeting about what they perceive as lack of progress by our agency, I was meeting with our facility Superintendents about several new, system-changing initiatives. Our meeting involved a discussion of the implementation and use of performance-based standards to measure progress within our institutions and the development of a state-of-the-art classification system, which will allow us to more effectively match youth needs and risk levels with the appropriate institution and programs.

I am proud of the many improvements DYS has made and recognize the work we have ahead of us. My staff and I stand ready to show you the great strides we have made together.