

**CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE  
126<sup>TH</sup> OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**BIENNIAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

**127<sup>th</sup> OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

**ADULT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION FINDINGS**

**January 10, 2007**

**Prepared and Submitted by the  
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## CIIC BIENNIAL REPORT: ADULT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

Section 103.73 of the Ohio Revised Code specifically requires the CIIC to “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 the correctional institutions in the state.” Although separate inspection reports are posted on the CIIC website at [www.ciic.state.oh.us](http://www.ciic.state.oh.us), this biennial report is a condensed and abbreviated version of the full separate reports. An effort was made to extract portions of each individual report that contained findings or recommendations to improve the condition or operation of the institutions.

While this report contains findings of inspections of adult correctional institutions, a separate biennial report provides findings of inspections of juvenile correctional institutions. Reports are included on any inspections or on-site visits that occurred in calendar years 2005 or 2006, and any such reports completed in the biennium, even if the actual inspection occurred prior to January 1, 2005. Summary reports are provided regarding the following prisons:

Chillicothe Correctional Institution  
Correctional Reception Center  
Lebanon Correctional Institution  
London Correctional Institution  
Lorain Correctional Institution  
Madison Correctional Institution  
Marion Correctional Institution  
Northeast Ohio Correctional Center  
Northeast Pre-Release Center  
Ohio Reformatory for Women  
Pickaway Correctional Institution  
Southern Ohio Correctional Facility  
Toledo Correctional Institution  
Warren Correctional Institution

**CHILLICOTHE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION****Inspection Date: June 1, 2006****CIIC Member: Representative Todd Book****CIIC Staff****Summary**

On the day of the inspection, staff and inmates communicated freely with CIIC staff. While the inmates did express issues of concern, the content was not peppered with burning issues. This could be attributed to, if not a direct result of, CCI staff at all levels performing their duties in a professional manner, including being attentive to the important areas of concern that can cause a tense environment. Often times, the manner in which the Warden and other executive staff perform their jobs, is reflected in the manner in which all subordinate staff carry out their responsibilities. The staff and even the inmates will often emulate the spirit and enthusiasm that the Warden models.

While the atmosphere was calm on the grounds of the institution, there were areas of concern observed during the inspection, which if not addressed in the near future could threaten the progress the Department has made towards a more rehabilitative environment. The most obvious pressing matter that affects the institution is the size of the population that is housed at CCI. On the day of the inspection, the count for the institution was 2,816, which is reportedly less than previous numbers, but well above the rated capacity of 1,673. No matter how well managed the population is, crowding can cause stress to occur on the elements essential to a prison's ability to fulfill its mission. Essential services like medical, mental health, vocational and rehabilitative programs, and most importantly the ability to maintain a secure environment can deteriorate over time when extreme overcrowding exists. With this potential effect in mind, there is an overall need to address the increasing population of medium security inmates. In each dormitory the CIIC inspected, every square foot of available space was used for bed space. Space in most of the dormitories normally used for common areas by inmates for indoor recreation or leisure activities were used for bed space instead.

One aspect, unique to the institution, which was noted to alleviate tensions associated with overcrowding, was the land inside the fence of the institution. The space allows enough room for multiple outdoor recreation activities and for an inmate to put space in-between himself and others. There are several baseball diamonds, volleyball courts, a walking path, shuffleboards, and the former dining hall that has been renovated for a gym and a variety of other activities. On the day of the inspection, inmates moved freely about the open areas. The overall atmosphere of the institution was relaxed.

The green space and landscaping around the institution were very well kept. The area immediately leading up to the administration building was groomed and manicured. The common areas outside of the dormitories were also well maintained.

Maintenance staff face a variety of issues and challenges. The most significant obstacle is the age of the facility's older structures. While the overall maintenance of the facility

appeared to be good, the most significant disadvantage that maintenance personnel struggle with is the age of the facility coupled with the impact that the number of inmates above the institution's capacity has on the prison. There were some obvious signs of this during the inspection. Most notably the bathrooms in many of the housing units were in need of expansion and refurbishing. Inmates repeatedly expressed concerns about the ratio of toilets and sinks to the number of inmates. Allegations had been made that inmates assigned to clean restrooms used by the staff were not provided with adequate cleaning supplies to effectively sanitize them. The CIIC inquired about this prior to the inspection of the facility. The CCI Inspector of Institutional Services relayed the following:

CCI has a Chemical Control Officer who issues supplies every other day to all areas of the institution. Staff supervises inmate porters as they clean bathrooms and other areas. If the job is not satisfactory to supervising staff, staff may replace inmate workers, write conduct reports or assign inmates to redo the assigned areas. In the event that more chemicals and cleaning supplies are needed, they are issued to the inmate.

None of the windows in the dormitories were observed to be equipped with screens. Inmates in segregation relayed that the tap water from the sinks in their cells often times tastes like metal and contains rust from the deteriorating pipes. The Warden relayed that plans are currently in the works to make improvements in some of these areas.

Inmates expressed a desire for more vocational or educational programs. Several inmates that were serving short periods of time relayed that they would like to learn a trade, or earn some type of vocational certification. They eagerly stressed how important it was for them to succeed once they completed their sentences. Unfortunately, some relayed that the short amount of time they had left excluded them from participation in many of the vocational programs offered by the department.

According to information provided to CIIC, over half of all inmates incarcerated are serving sentences of one year or less. The Department should expand short-term programs that target the inmates that comprise this population. While the Chillicothe Correctional Institution provides the opportunities to enroll in six vocational programs and four academic programs, consideration should be given to developing vocational programs that target inmates serving short sentences, or with short periods of time remaining on their sentences. Communication from staff on site also highlighted the need to address the expansion of educational and vocational opportunities to meet the growing population of inmates.

### **Entry**

The entry building was clean and well organized to efficiently process guests and visitors into the institution. The staff was courteous as they processed the CIIC Member and staff. The area between the administrative building and the entry building was well landscaped and also served as an outside visitation area for inmates and their families. The outside

visitation area included a number of playground sets for the children of inmates during visits.

### **Units B-1 and B-2, Residential Treatment Unit**

Each cell in the RTU is equipped with an air conditioning unit due to the effects heat can have on patients being treated with certain psychotropic medications. On the first floor the beds were observed to be very low to the floor. Some of the cells in B-1 were covered with Plexiglas panels and are reserved for individual inmates that have a habit of throwing urine, feces, or other liquids.

The cells contained little if any personal effects belonging to the inmates, and for the most part were clean. Vacant cells in the units were also observed to be clean and prepared to receive new occupants. Several inmates relayed comments to CIIC staff that their cells were “good.” An Activity Therapist relayed that he diligently works with inmates on personal hygiene responsibilities. In fact, there was no foul odor noticeable in the unit, which sometimes is associated with housing units containing seriously mentally ill inmates. This demonstrates that there is excellent work being done by the staff with regard to hygiene and sanitation. According to the staff, it is a constant task that is never completed. Inmate porters reportedly assist with the cleaning of the common areas of the housing unit and the cells of inmates who de-compensate below normal functioning levels.

### **Segregation**

Conditions on F-Range of the segregation unit were observed. The segregation unit consists of three tiers of six ranges. Each cell consisted of a bunk, metal toilet and metal sink. Staff relayed that the design of the segregation unit enables them to manage separations as needed in the unit. All of the inmates in CCI segregation are single celled, an extremely positive finding. This reduces tensions, limits the possibility of spreading infectious diseases, and reduces the likelihood of assaults.

While the temperature seemed cool in the block with the windows open, inmates relayed that the atmosphere in the block becomes stuffy and stale when direct sunlight hits the windows in the afternoons. Inmates were observed to be wearing the new “summer” uniforms. Instead of wearing orange colored jumps suits, inmates were wearing orange shorts, and button-less orange shirts with white shoulders.

While many of the cells appeared to be clean, some were in obvious need of attention. Inmates relayed complaints of not being provided with appropriate cleaning products to effectively clean the showers. The porter communicated that the showers on F-Range are cleaned three times a week. One inmate stated that they were just given a mop and a bucket of water. Other cells were observed to have toilets that were dirty. An inmate relayed that he was not provided with a toilet brush to properly clean his toilet. Another inmate relayed that he had been in segregation for one week, and was unaware as to when cleaning supplies were distributed. It is recommended that clip boards be hung outside of

the cells to show documentation of when the inmate in each cell is given cleaning materials, and to have staff verify/supervise the porters dispensing the items. This would be done in much the same way as when medical or mental health staff document their visits to each cell in segregation.

Other inmates relayed concerns of the temperature of the water, and its odd taste. One inmate provided a sample of the water for a CIIC staff member. The water contained a rust colored hue, possibly due to the deterioration of the plumbing fixtures. The inmate also relayed that the sinks leak constantly. CCI staff relayed that the maintenance department was notified about the problem, but it takes a while to have the repair completed.

Just outside of the segregation block is a fenced-in recreation area, consisting of ten individual cages equipped with pull-up bars, sit-up benches and handles for inmates to perform dips. The equipment gives the inmates the opportunity to exercise a variety of the major muscle groups, and the space provides the opportunity for the inmate to perform other callisthenic exercises to work the other major muscle groups of the body.

### **Inmate Housing Units**

Overall, the living areas of the dormitories were observed to be clean and organized. CIIC Staff observed inmates cleaning their individual cells. The selection of dormitories that eat first is based on the cleanliness of the entire dormitory. Inmates work hard on the common areas and their individual living areas in an effort to earn a higher ranking on the eating rotation.

Since the housing units were inspected throughout the day, some were observed to be crowded, while others were sparsely occupied as inmates were either at recreation, meals, school or work. Inside the dormitories, many inmates were observed in shorts and t-shirts due to the temperature and humidity in the dorms. Oscillating fans were used to improve air circulation. There is no central air, or air conditioning in the dormitories.

Showers in the E-unit honor dormitories have now been refitted to reduce the amount of water waste. The Warden relayed that some inmates tend to leave water faucets or showers turned on after they have finished showering resulting in excess waste of resources. To address this problem, the institution's maintenance department developed a timing system that turns the showers off after twelve minutes of use, which reduces waste and prevents inmates from spending excess time in the showers. When an inmate wants to take a shower, the Officer working the unit starts the timer. While some inmates relayed that the privileged housing units should be afforded more time to shower, the Warden relayed that twelve minutes is more than enough time for an inmate to shower.

CIIC observed housing units used for inmates enrolled in the sex offender education program. Inmates enrolled in the Comprehensive Sex Offender Education Program live in one half of the dormitory in rooms large enough to house two-to-eight inmates. Inmates participating in the Mandatory Sex Offender Education Program live in the other half of

the building in an open bay. The sleeping quarters appeared to be in good order and clean. Most inmates were either in programming, or at work during the walk through of the housing unit. The showers and restrooms were also inspected and observed to be sanitary. While they showed obvious signs of use, they did not appear to be in poor condition.

The CIIC staff also observed restrooms used by staff. They were also found to be clean and in good condition. As a safety precaution, staff restrooms are equipped with a security light. When the restroom is occupied, a light is engaged outside the door.

It was observed in the E-2 unit that toilets and sinks in the buildings were rusted and had mildew stains. Some of the staining was attributed to the hard-water content associated with the area, which left rust colored stains in the showers and the sinks. Reportedly, in E-1, the ratio of inmates to sinks and toilets is a problem. Inmates communicated that there are eight sinks and eight toilets for nearly 300 inmates. Restrooms in F-2 were also observed to be in need of updating and repair. Similar concerns were also expressed and/or observed in D-unit and other housing units throughout the institution. The Warden relayed that they are reportedly conducting an evaluation to expand the number of sinks and toilets due to the ratio of these amenities to inmates housed at the facility.

It was also relayed that insects were a problem because there are no screens on the windows of the housing unit. This is most problematic at night. However, no birds were observed in any of the dormitories that were inspected, but staff members communicated that pigeons have been a problem at the facility in the past. To address this issue, netting was put on the windows of the uppermost ranges of the dormitories, which reportedly has been effective in reducing the roosting of pigeons on the buildings. This was reportedly a more effective alternative than “squawk-boxes” that broadcast a distressed pigeon call. Pigeon excrement has been attributed to inflaming allergies, respiratory problems, and causing adverse reactions to individual with compromised immune systems.

Inmates relayed also that air circulation is a problem in some of the units. In the E-1 unit, it was relayed that the motors for the draft fans on the roof are broken, and do not draw the air upward as they are supposed to do. As mentioned previously, the use of oscillating fans are used in an attempt to improve circulation.

## **Kitchen**

The kitchen at CCI contained all the modern appliances and tools necessary for inmates to prepare and serve the meals. Despite the fact that lunch was being served, the area was rather well kept. In all, there were only a few areas of potential concern.

On entering the kitchen, the staff required the CIIC to don hairnets, which is a positive indication of attention to sanitary practices. The food service line was equipped with a metal covering or shield to prevent inmates from seeing who will receive a particular plate. This method has been termed “blind serving” and has been considered to be an effective safety precaution present at some institutions to prevent inmates from either tampering with an inmate’s food or showing favoritism. According to staff, they are

doing away with this, because it reportedly does not fit the reentry philosophy of the Department. That is, staff relayed that it gives the impression that inmates cannot be trusted to carry out their job responsibilities, and to not tamper with the food they are serving to others.

While the food services building is new, there were visible signs of wear. The floor of the kitchen, which consists of a blue, rubberized material was observed to be bubbling-up in some areas and peeling. Staff relayed that the floor is not that old, and the company that did the work has since gone out of business. However, in other areas, the material appeared to have been applied correctly and still retained its original integrity.

The CIIC observed one of the dish rooms in the dining halls. As inmates finish their meals, they place their trays in the window where inmates separate the cups, utensils and trays to be cleaned by the industrial-sized dishwashing machine. A large amount of standing water was observed on the floor of the dish room. This is due in part to one of the two garbage disposals missing from the sink. Staff relayed that the disposal had been out for approximately six weeks for repairs, and had yet to be reinstalled because the needed bolts were reportedly not available. There was a screen placed on the floor to catch pieces of food that would have otherwise been processed by the garbage disposal. The other garbage disposal was left running constantly, which was not a problem according to staff present. Staff relayed that there was an inmate who reportedly had the responsibility to squeegee the standing water into the drain throughout the meal periods. However, the staff responsible for supervising the inmates working in the dish room did not direct an inmate to do so until the question of the standing water was raised.

This issue had been brought to CIIC's attention prior to the inspection of CCI. Anonymous allegations were received on April 28, 2006 that the garbage disposal had been removed several weeks prior, but the wiring remained "alive" and close to water. The CIIC staff conducted an inquiry into this reported concern. According to the response, the institution Health and Safety Officer investigated the allegation in the company of the Safety and Health Consultant from the Public Employee Risk Reduction Program. It was reported that the power to the garbage disposal had been turned off at the main breaker and there was no exposed wiring at the location.

Another anonymous concern pertained to sanitation reportedly being compromised as follows: "On July 22, 2006, the Food Service Coordinators at CCI were forced to close one of four serving lines as maggots emerged from floor drain and contaminated inmate food service." The anonymous individual also reported, "Earlier this year raw sewage was backing up into the dining area, which prompted another incident in which food service was interrupted." While the expressed concerns are serious, this office recognizes that some problems cannot be prevented. Further, based on the reported actions of the staff in the anonymous correspondent's letter, immediate action was taken by CCI staff to address the situation as it arose. Staff relayed on the date of the inspection that an exterminator sprays for bugs on a weekly basis to prevent infestations from becoming a problem.

In regard to kitchen appliances, most were in good working order. It was observed that one of the grills was not operable due to maintenance issues. It was also observed that several sprinkler heads were missing in the preparation area. According to staff, work orders had been issued and it was a matter of time before they were repaired. Consideration should be given to the extent to which improvements can be made to enable maintenance staff to expedite and complete work orders.

### **Medical Services**

The medical facility appeared to be sanitary and in good order. However, the age of the facility was apparent. The space could be considered inadequate compared to modern facilities. Examination rooms were tightly packed with equipment and supplies, and provided little room for movement. It is suggested that an inventory be conducted to determine the amount of supplies that are necessary for the examination rooms, and what supplies are not immediately necessary or are excessive. Alternative space for medical supplies that are determined to be extra should be sought, thereby alleviating the cramped condition of examination rooms. Staff should determine the exact amount of supplies that are needed on a daily basis, and equip the examination room with only the needed amount, leaving the remaining supplies in already established storage rooms.

Anonymous correspondence received after the inspection relayed that there reportedly was asbestos falling in certain areas of the facility clinic that have been taped off and staff and inmates must continue to walk around. However, CIIC staff conducted a walk-through of the entire facility during the inspection and did not observe any of the conditions described by the anonymous author of the correspondence. However, in some areas the paint was observed to be peeling from the ceiling and pipes.

Throughout the facility during the inspection, inmates expressed concerns about the quality and consistency of the medical care they are provided. It is completely reasonable to believe that, despite the best efforts of medical staff, not every patient may be satisfied with the recommended treatment that they receive. However, it is also reasonable to believe that the patient can provide valuable input regarding symptoms and treatment that has or has not been effective. A health care professional should take into account the opinion of the patient. It should be an ongoing effort for every prison Health Care Administrator to improve patient satisfaction with services. In routine sick call contacts, good listening and communication skills can often result in the patient's increased understanding of the decisions to date, and confidence in the service delivery system. Such good communication between patient and health care provider is believed to be highly cost effective in reducing grievances and litigation costs, yielding a positive net benefit for both the patient and the Department.

Aspects of the treatment team concept utilized by the Mental Health staff for those on the mental health caseload, may have potential for expanded application to medical services. Further, just as one institution has a suggestion box for visitor input located at the entry/exit point, all institutions could provide a medical services suggestion box for

inmate patients, providing an anonymous survey card similar to those used by private businesses in the communities.

As noted above regarding the potential benefit of providing a suggestion box with survey cards in the medical services area, the results could be added to each institution's monthly report to reflect the opinions of patients. Survey cards could be completed by each patient, allowing them to express their views regarding medical services received using a continuum rating system. If effectively implemented, it would permit Health Care Administrators to see what areas need improvement. This would be another inexpensive device that could be implemented by the department, which could facilitate improved services by identifying potential areas of concern before they become problems requiring legal resolution.

#### **CIIC INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES REGARDING MEDICAL SERVICES**

When warranted, the CIIC makes inquiries into concerns relayed by legislators, prison employees, inmates, anonymous individuals, or other agencies. Expressed concerns about medical care take special precedence and are considered concerns that deserve priority. Below is a summary of the most recent allegations expressed to the CIIC from or regarding the Chillicothe Correctional Institution, and the responses to inquiries provided by CCI officials.

**Allegation:** The inmate relayed concerns about the use of Nurse Practitioners in lieu of Licensed Physicians. He also refers to infectious diseases at CCI, specifically TB and AIDS. Furthermore, the inmate stated that CCI had 3,000 inmates and currently no Doctors, whereas before they had one Doctor for 3,000. He cites that because the institution is reportedly mostly sex offenders, elderly and sick inmates, they should be entitled to more care.

**Response:** CCI has had one case of TB since January 2006. This case was promptly addressed with the inmate is receiving antibiotics and being sent to the Correctional Medical Center for treatment. CCI does not house inmates that have AIDS and that are HIV positive due to the pigeon population. CCI has two doctors and a nurse practitioner, which totals 80 hours of health care services to inmates per week. In the past two years, the number of advanced level health care providers has doubled per Central Office contract.

**Allegation:** Several inmates have contracted staph infection. When they seek medical attention, they are often times given ibuprofen and sent right back to the dorms where they may possibly infect hundreds of others with a potentially fatal infection.

**Response:** In regard to MRSA and Staph infections, there have been no significant increases. The few that have been diagnosed with Staph are marginal, and were isolated and treated.

## **Community Service Programs**

Each ODRC correctional facility in Ohio operates a series of community service programs. In CIIC staff's view, the community service projects have had an extremely positive affect. Not only do they provide a positive use of time for offenders, but they also provide an opportunity to help others and the satisfaction of giving. The dog programs, perhaps more than any other community service project, have made a significant, positive impact on the environment in the facilities to the benefit of staff and inmates. In addition, the community benefits. Such projects help to maintain or achieve positive relationships between the prisons and the local community.

## **OPI Products Profitability**

A review of the profit/loss contribution for the past fiscal year from July 2005 to June 30, 2006, and product profit/loss information for the OPI products and services produced at CCI for June 2006 reveals the following:

- The Chair factory posted negative earnings for June 2006 for a net contribution of -\$23,584, and a total net contribution for the past Fiscal Year of \$423.00.
- The Mattress production factory posted positive earnings to the net contribution of \$26,401, and a positive net contribution of \$297,299 for the past fiscal year.
- The Vehicle Modification Shop posted a negative earning statement for June 2006 to the net contribution of -\$10,494. It posted an even greater negative earning statement for the past fiscal year of -\$27,120.
- 1-800-BUCKEYE, which packages the travel information pamphlets for Ohio rest stops reported a negative earning statement of -\$812.00 for June 2006 and a negative earning statement of -\$6,087 for the past fiscal year.

## **Sex Offender Education Programs**

Per the CCI Website, the Sex Offender Program is a structured nine to 18 month program for the education of sex offenders that are considered high risk to re-offend if released back into the community. Upon completion of the program, the participants will have completed classes in a broad range of areas (anger management, compulsive behavior, relationships, victim empathy and more).<sup>1</sup> The CCI Sex Offender Program is a residential program, with a reported capacity for 116 inmates. On the day of the inspection, there were approximately 110-112 inmates participating in either the Comprehensive program, or the Mandatory program.

The Chillicothe Correctional Institution was the first prison in the state of Ohio to operate a program solely dedicated to sex offender treatment. The CCI Polaris Program was not only the first, but it had a long-standing reputation for being "the best" sex offender treatment program within the Ohio prison system. Polaris operated for many years before it was terminated as the ODRC sought to develop a new model of standardized

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.drc.state.oh.us/Public/cci.htm>

programming. The POLARIS program was a holistic program as compared to the new program, which is based on cognitive behavioral treatment models that could be implemented at any institution in Ohio. It is reportedly more cost effective, and brings uniformity, not only among the prison sex offender programs, but also among programs in the field for parolees.

### **Sex Offender Program Library**

The housing unit maintains a small library tailored for the needs of the program. The staff controls literature in the library, and the books were organized into self-help and other categories. The material in the library was somewhat outdated, and current literature should be added to the resources available. A review of the Comprehensive Education Program Handbook, and the Mandatory Sex Offender Education Program Handbook revealed that there are numerous titles and sources listed for program instructors to access if necessary. These materials could be acquired to update and improve the resources available to inmates in the library.

During the inspection at least one inmate relayed concerns about not being eligible for the sex offender treatment program until he is three years from release, yet being highly motivated for treatment now. He was referred to contact the sex offender program staff, noting that their library contained some valuable material that may be helpful.

The development of the library noted above appeared to be initiated by the program staff. The initiative is regarded as extremely positive, with the potential to serve as a resource, not only for active program participants, but also for those like the inmate referenced above, who must wait for years to get into the program. If program staff can at least direct the motivated to good materials, such as through the mini-library at CCI, it is a beginning to address the needs of this segment of sex offenders.

**CORRECTIONAL RECEPTION CENTER**  
**Inspection Date: February 24, 2006**  
**CIIC Member: Senator Eric Kearney**  
**CIIC Staff**

### **Summary**

Nearly every part of the facility was extremely clean. CRC staff were cordial, yet businesslike and totally professional. It was noted that the reported rule that inmates in reception status must eat in silence is unusual, and is believed to be unique to CRC. Reconsideration of the reported rule is recommended in the relevant section of this report.

Since inmate cadre workers are permitted to converse during meals, CIIC attended the general meal period with the cadre who expressed numerous complaints and concerns: access to grievance forms, idleness outside of their work hours, desire/need for more programs, and improvements in the food, medical and dental care. During the inspection of the food services area, the cadre food service workers were very focused and conscientious in their work. The food services area was in excellent condition.

### **Crowding**

Lorain Correctional Institution (also a reception center) and CRC rank first and second system-wide in their crowding rate, with the population comprising 237 percent and 206 percent of their capacity, respectively. The increasing population directly impacts all staff, but especially those involved in receiving, processing, assessment, and classification. The increased population and Department-wide procedural changes in suicide prevention have contributed to the challenges faced by staff. Relevant staff communication was received regarding the impact of overtime hours on officers, vacancies in medical services, and reported shortages in other departments.

### **Programs**

CRC offers an abundance of meaningful programs including:

The dog training programs, the Paralegal Apprenticeship Program, the New Offender Program, Older Offender Program and a litany of purposeful Mental Health programs that deserve special recognition.

From a historical perspective, there has been enormous improvement in the availability of programs at CRC. Still, current cadre inmates expressed the need for increased access to programs, advanced educational opportunities, and additional vocational training in part to relieve their reported idleness. However, according to communication to the CIIC from CRC cadre inmates over the years, the primary benefit of CRC placement is the safe, secure environment. Just as staff who have worked at one of the parent institutions tend to appreciate the special environment at CRC, so also do many of the inmates who have been at other prisons.

**Dental**

It is suggested that a review be made of all dental “no shows” to ensure that they do not mistakenly reflect inmates who were unaware of the appointment or were unable to be present.

In addition, in the Dental monthly data, full-time equivalent positions (FTE) and number of hours are interchanged inconsistently from month to month and from “projected” to “actual” data. For the data to be meaningful for monitoring purposes on an institutional level and system-wide, there must be agreement on what data is to be recorded, whether hours or FTE, and the agreed upon data language must be used consistently.

**Dining Hall**

It is recommended that the no talking policy in the reception inmate dining hall be reassessed. Communication at meals tends to have a positive impact on the overall environment.

**Visiting Room**

Consideration should be given to replacing the current loose chairs and footstool size tables with stationary, immovable seating for security purposes.

**CIIC Database: January 2005 through April 2006**

System-wide, only three percent of the CIIC contacts and only two percent of the reported concerns were from or regarding CRC. Of the 176 reported concerns from CRC, the largest category is “Other,” and the second largest is “Force/Supervision.” The Inmate Grievance Procedure and Staff Accountability categories rank third largest, followed closely by Health Services

**Budget**

According to the Correctional Reception Center website, as of March 28, 2005 the budget or General Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 2006 (subject to monthly review and adjustment) for the facility is \$39,606,866. On the date previously mentioned, the Correctional Reception Center had the 9<sup>th</sup> highest budget. Eight institutions had budgets larger than the Correctional Reception Center, ranging from the Madison Correctional Institution’s budget of \$39,947,791 to a high of \$52,052,457 at the Mansfield Correctional Institution. At least 22 Ohio prisons had budgets less than the Correctional Reception Center, ranging from \$10,140,056 at the Montgomery Education and Pre-Release Center to \$37,956,749 at the London Correctional Institution.

### **Medical/Mental Health Costs**

Based on the CRC Employees, Inmate and Utilities Sheet provided on-site, as of April 2005, the Daily Healthcare Expenditure per inmate is as follows: Medical \$8.41 per inmate per day; Mental Health \$3.75 per inmate per day

### **Meal Costs**

According to an ODRC analysis of FY 2005 costs, the average cost of a meal at CRC in FY 2005 was \$1.17. The ODRC average in FY 2005 is quoted as \$1.08. The average cost per meal at CRC is just slightly higher than the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's average of \$1.08. The Correctional Reception Center has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest cost per meal of all Ohio prisons. The Corrections Medical Center has the highest per meal cost, at \$4.71. The Ohio State Penitentiary and Southern Ohio Correction Facility have the second and third highest meal costs, at \$1.84 and \$1.41, respectively.

### **Staff**

According to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction/Correctional Reception Center website, a total of 506 staff are employed at the facility. Of this number, 302 are security staff members. On March 29, 2006, the ODRC careers website listed three job vacancies, including one nurse, one psychologist, and one psychology assistant. As of June 7, 2006, CRC staff totaled 502, with 294 security staff (58.6%). Further breakdown of the staff composition shows that there are 352 male staff comprising 70.1% of the employees. Of the male employees, 79.5% are White. Female staff total 150, comprising 29.9% of the staff. Among the female staff, 71.3% are White. There are 235 male officers and 59 female officers. Of the male officers, 80% are White. Of the female officers, 59.3% are White.

### **Medical Services**

The Medical Monthly Institutional Statistical Summary provides Infectious Disease Data. For the period of January through May 2006, from 1,093 to 1,463 inmates per month were tested for TB. Of the total 6,221 tests, 61 were reported to be a positive PPD test. A total of nine inmates completed INH in the period, while 28 were reportedly incomplete. In January, one inmate reportedly refused INH. From five to 18 inmates were reported to be HIV positive in the five-month period. Inmate HIV conversions ranged from zero in two months to a high of 11 in January and also in April 2006. A separate CRC Infectious Disease Monthly Report for May 2006, provides data on TB, HIV, Hep Bs AG, Hep C and STD. In the month, there were 364 HIV tests and CRC reported having five HIV positive inmates. There were 59 Hep BsAg tests in the month, with two positive tests. Fourteen received immunizations. Hepatitis C Tests reportedly totaled 205, with 630 positive. This is believed to be in error. More likely, there were 205 positives of 630 tests. According to the report, CRC had 43 Hep C positive inmates in May 2006. Reportedly, 406 STD RPR tests were conducted in the month, and only one was STS MHA-TP positive.

For the cadre workers, CRC is their parent institution. A careful review was made of the monthly medical and dental statistical reports. The Dental Institutional Report for May 2006 reports that "Waiting Time" for extractions is seven days. Waiting time for fillings is reported to be two months and waiting time for cleanings is reportedly one month.

Regarding staffing, the monthly statistical report states that there are no civil service dental staff. Rather, 126 Dentist hours were reported, in addition to 336 Dental Assistant hours. The Medical Monthly Institutional Statistical Summary for CRC from January through May 2006 includes a section on Contractual Staff Utilization.

The previous monthly form used by medical staff system-wide instructed the person completing the form to enter the number of projected and actual hours worked. The new report format appears to be identical to the previous form, except that data is entered on computer and no instructions are apparent. Based on the review of forms system-wide, it appears to have been implemented in January 2006.

Based on the numbers cited above, it is presumed that the number of full time equivalent positions and number of hours are interchanged inconsistently from month to month and from projected to actual. For the data to be meaningful for monitoring purposes on an institutional level and system-wide, there must be agreement on what data is to be recorded, whether hours or FTE, and the agreed upon data language must be used consistently from month to month and within each month in the projected and actual columns.

The Civil Service Staff Summary in the monthly reports show that a Health Care Administrator was on staff from January through May 2006. The number of Registered Nurses was projected to be 19 in January, 22 in February and March, and 18 in April and May. However, the actual RN data shows that 17 were available in January and February, and 11 were available in March and April, but only one was reported on the staff in May. RN actual overtime was zero in March, and ranged from 217 in April to the high of 400 in February 2006. RN vacancies totaled two in January, three in February and seven in March, April and May 2006.

The projected and actual number of Licensed Practical Nurses consisted of three in each of the five months. LPN actual overtime was reported to be zero in March, and ranged from a low of 42 in May to a high of 480 in February. There were no LPN vacancies in the five-month period.

### **Mental Health**

In regard to Mental Health services, the audit information relays that Anger Management Groups for Cadre Inmates have been instituted. It was noted that all of Mental Health staff have become more involved with Reentry for inmates on the Mental Health Caseload.

The Residential Treatment Unit was cited as a challenge for the Mental Health staff. The implementation of the Lindsay Hayes Protocol and Standard Operating Procedure #17 reportedly required staff to take on additional tasks that are to provide for a safer environment for inmates and staff. According to the audit, as a result of the Lindsay Hayes Protocol, the Crisis Stabilization Unit continues to grow. Reportedly, there is a significant increase in the number of suicide watches admitted to the Crisis Stabilization Unit due to CRC's status as a reception center.

New programming has reportedly been introduced in the RTU with the Re-entry based Family Relations Group, targeted toward inmates within nine months of release. Level three RTU inmates have access to radios over the weekend as a relaxation tool, cited as very successful. Activity Therapy initiated the Horticulture Group for Level three and four RTU inmates who prepare soil, plant and maintain a flower garden outside of the Mental Health Building. Further information on the RTU and the mental health population is provided in separate sections of this report.

Based on the ODRC Monthly Mental Health Caseload for May 2006, data for CRC shows that their population totaled 1,858. Of that number, 269 inmates were on the total mental health caseload. Only four inmates on the caseload were in segregation. The psychiatric caseload includes those classified as C1 (seriously mentally ill) and C2. There were 257 inmates on the psychiatric caseload. A total of 125 inmates were classified as C1 and 132 were classified as C2. Only 12 inmates were classified as C3.

## **R1**

One of the housing areas for reception inmates is R1, which was observed during count. All inmates were therefore locked down in their cells. Reportedly, no security cameras exist in either reception unit. Ten bunk beds were observed in the center of the floor. Four showers were observed on the unit and were found to be extremely clean.

Notices posted on the wall included: Law Library schedule, Internal Management Audit, Cincinnati Bell information, postal increase notification and infectious disease information. The CIIC re-start memo was not posted.

Single cells were available for those offenders with serious violence in their criminal history. The cells had a pillow and mattress. Extra bunk beds were on the floor space that otherwise could serve as dayroom space.

## **R2**

R2 was very clean; all lights were in working condition. The showers on the top and bottom range were open, with good visibility, and were very clean with no rust or mold. The unit had six pay phones, and a pencil sharpener on the wall. The Laundry room was also observed. Since the Laundry facilities at the Pickaway Correctional Institution were not functional, the Correctional Reception Center was addressing their laundry needs as well.

Signs posted in the unit included a Sexual Assault flyer, Mental Health flyer, Infection Control Measures, Inmates with Disabilities, money order information, legal information, a notice regarding gym shoes, a notice regarding educational services, and Ankrom memo. Some of the signs were posted in Spanish, as well. The Correctional Institution Inspection Committee restart memo was not posted. Shift schedules and cleaning schedules were posted at the control desk. A Kite box was located on the wall near the entrance.

### **A Unit**

“A” unit houses Cadre inmates. The unit was clean, with inmates working and sitting at tables playing cards. The inmates in the unit were cordial and open. Reportedly, Level One (Minimum) and Level Two (Medium) inmates were housed in the unit in double cells.

Concerns relayed in this unit included dislike of the food, a desire for more educational opportunities, complaints about medical services, the Inmate Grievance Procedure and alleged retaliation for using the procedure.

### **RTU**

RTU Level 4 inmates were observed sitting around a table and watching a movie, waiting to be moved so their rooms could be outfitted with Kane screening. The area was very clean, including the showers and the group room.

### **Segregation**

Overall, the segregation unit was clean and quiet. However, the windows and the steel furniture in the cells were extremely rusted. Two suicide cells were observed. Inmates in segregation have access to indoor and outdoor recreation. The outdoor recreation area provides a basketball hoop. Inmates relayed that there is “nothing really to do” in recreation, that there is “no real equipment- You can just walk around.” In Disciplinary Control, a clipboard with logging information was hanging on the wall near the door of each occupied cell. Staff relayed that they have been putting the log by the door for six months as of the time of the inspection. According to the Officers, prior to that, the form used to be kept in a drawer in the Officer’s area. The Individual Segregation Record Sheet that is attached to the clipboard and placed at the door of each occupied cell was provided for review.

Orange peels were observed in one inmate’s toilet in Disciplinary Control. According to the inmate, they do not pick up trash. However, a Correctional Officer stated that they do pick up trash. It was suggested to the Officer that perhaps staff need to let the inmates know when they will be picking up trash, and provide inmates with a paper bag, or something in which to throw away trash.

In Local Control, the cells had major peeling of paint on the ceiling. One inmate stated that he painted for a living before coming to prison, and that he would gladly fix the ceiling and walls if he had the necessary materials. A Correctional Officer commented that the paint peels on the ceilings and walls because the showers are in the cells causing moisture. The Officer noted that it is “a big issue” with the inmates, that grievances have been filed, and the Health and Safety Officer has been notified.

It is suggested that scraping, sanding and re -painting be done on a far more frequent basis to prevent deterioration to the current state of loose paint chips and severe peeling. It is also suggested that a review be made to determine if there is a way to prevent continued peeling, such as using water sealer over the paint and/or improving airflow in the ventilation system.

### **Food Services**

Regarding the reported policy of silence during meals for the reception inmates, it is interesting to note that the Lorain Correctional Institution, which is also a reception center for men, has no such policy or practice. In fact, no other Ohio prison to our knowledge, has a policy or practice requiring silence during meals. It is recommended that the policy be reassessed. Communication at meals tends to have a positive impact on the environment for staff and inmates.

CIIC attended the general meal period in the cadre-dining hall. Salt and pepper was available on the tables. Inmates relayed a desire for better food. Reportedly, if there was one thing that they could change at the Correctional Reception Center, it would be the food. Options for vegetarians are reportedly very limited, consisting of soy patties, soy nuggets and peanut butter. Inmates alleged that mashed potatoes are served four times a week, and that the vegetables are overcooked and soggy. Several inmates relayed the need to include healthier foods in Food Services, and in the commissary, which reportedly caters to reception inmates who want “junk food.”

A hand wash sink was present and easily accessible to Food Service workers. Also, an impressive electric flytrap was on the top of the wall, near the ceiling. This was viewed as very beneficial in keeping the food services area sanitary. All areas were very clean.

### **Vocational/Educational Programs**

Throughout the institution, inmates expressed the need for more vocational and education programs, particularly the Cadre inmates. Some inmates expressed the need for trades and college classes for Cadre. One inmate relayed that the Correctional Reception Center does not have enough in the way of education programs for Cadre because most inmates are reception inmates, with extremely short stays. This inmate felt as though he was being held back educationally because of the lack of programs. Regarding the above, as noted previously in the programs section of this report, from an historical perspective, there has been enormous improvement in the availability of programs in reception centers. In times past, cadre inmates knowingly “gave up” programming that is available elsewhere, in

order to enjoy what many regard as a privilege to be assigned as work cadre at CRC and even Lorain Correctional Institution. According to numerous inmates over the years, the primary benefit of such placement is the safe, secure environment. Just as staff who have worked in one of the parent institutions tend to appreciate the special environment at the Correctional Reception Center, so also do many of the inmates who have been elsewhere.

### **Library**

An inmate training to be a paralegal relayed that he assisted inmates with their legal work. The inmate explained that he did not charge for his services, and pointed to a sign posted, clearly telling inmates they are not to pay for legal services rendered by other inmates. Inmates in the library felt that the Correctional Reception Center library could “rival any in the state.”

Elsewhere during the inspection, some inmates noted that there are no books or magazines in the Spanish language in the library. One inmate noted that he was not allowed to read “Vibe” magazine, and that it is hard to get certain books at the Correctional Reception Center. He said that most books are fiction. The inmate stated that he attempted to use the Inmate Grievance Procedure without resolution. In more recent communication from staff, it was relayed that the CRC Law Library is always used to capacity, that inmates seek increased access to materials. Reportedly, DRC is considering moving to a paperless system in which computer consoles would be available for inmates to access legal materials on the computer. This would reportedly allow multiple inmates to access the same document at the same time. However, adding computers would reportedly make the law library even more cramped, ultimately reducing inmate access.

### **Visiting Room**

Inmates relayed concerns on the compound about the new seating arrangement in the visiting room. They do not like to have to sit across the footstool high table from their visitor. The previous practice was to allow the inmate to sit beside the visitor. Staff explained that there had been recent incidents in which the visitor/inmate were reportedly touching inappropriately, resulting in disciplinary action. To prevent further incidents, the chairs were moved so that the inmate sits across from the visitors, not beside them, with a very small, low table/stool between them. Also, inmates reported that they do not like their visitor sitting close to other inmates.

Regarding the inmate comments that the visiting room is too small, staff relayed that no reservations are currently required to visit at CRC. Many if not most of the prisons require visiting reservations due to space limitations. Staff noted that CRC may have to consider that option.

The visiting room was clean and the tables and chairs were arranged in an orderly manner. From a security standpoint, it would be preferable to have immovable tables and chairs, rather than loose furniture that could be used in an assault. CRC is classified as a Level Three (close security) prison, but because they process in all inmates, they potentially have all security levels.

**LEBANON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**  
**Inspection Report Date: November 10, 2005**  
**CIIC Member: Senator Mark Mallory**  
**CIIC Staff**

**Staff**

According to LECI staff, on the day of the inspection, they were experiencing a shortage of 48 Correctional Officers.

**Population**

A similar breakdown was also provided on site for general population housing. E-Block was empty, and I-Block only had one inmate in the block. Other blocks ranged from 94 in D-Block to 254 in K-Block. A-Dorm and B-Dorm housed 78 and 80 respectively.

**Visiting Room**

The visiting room was well lit and clean. Two Correctional Officers staffed the visiting area. Several inmates had visitors at the time of the inspection.

**OPI Shop**

The OPI License Plate Shop was included on the inspection. Although no workers were in the shop at the time, machines were viewed, as well as basics of the operation pertaining to license plates and validation stickers for the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. According to staff on site, 278 inmates are employed as OPI workers at the Lebanon Correctional Institution. System-wide, there are 14 prisons that have no OPI shops. Of those with OPI on site, the Lebanon Correctional Institution employs the second largest number of OPI inmates in the prison system.

**Sex Offender Program**

According to the LECI website, the Sex Offender Program is one of two unique programs at the facility. It is described as a comprehensive program that lasts approximately 18 months, and includes all ODRC required components. Prior to successful completion, participants must meet certain minimal standards, ending with completion of a written Relapse Prevention Plan approved by program staff. Additional requirements include the development of an autobiography, finalization of any homework assignments, and a minimum of 75 percent attendance. A working understanding of program concepts is also required including but not limited to: Offender Typology, Offense Continuum, Abuse Cycle, Thinking Errors, Risk Factors.

The inspection included attendance of a group session of the Sex Offender Program. It was relayed that the space used for the Sex Offender Program is shared with Mental Health and Recovery Services. At the time of the inspection, empty classrooms were observed. The cleanliness of the area was extraordinary.

Staff relayed that the program is voluntary, but that since the Parole Board reportedly requires program completion, those who take the program solely to obtain parole are reportedly “not really voluntary.” Reportedly, some inmates who initially were only motivated to enroll due to the Parole Board requirement, found out through the learning process that they “have issues” previously not acknowledged. According to staff, the group or class normally begins with 12 inmates who meet in the morning and afternoon, five days a week for 18 months. On the day of the inspection, six inmates were present. The group was in their last month of the program.

None of the inmates in the group were reported to be close to their release date. It was also reported that an inmate’s length of sentence does not determine program eligibility. This alone was unique, for in recent years, proximity to release was in fact one of the eligibility criteria for placement in a Sex Offender Program. If in fact, sex offenders are permitted to participate in a Sex Offender Program at any time in their incarceration, it is regarded as positive, and consistent with the Re-entry philosophy that provides that offenders should begin preparation for successful release from the first day of their incarceration.

Further, in past years CIIC received reports of long waiting lists to get into sex offender programs. It was therefore significant and extremely positive that LECI staff relayed that there is no waiting list. Reportedly, a review is made from a list of those eligible, who are subsequently interviewed. Reportedly, if an inmate kites the Program Director, they will be added to the list for review and possible interview.

The inmate participants were enthusiastic and attentive in the classroom. In regard to typology, it was explained that inmates discuss their offense in detail, ask and answer questions, then determine their type. It was stated that there are three types of rapists and two types of molesters. Reportedly, the information learned from the typology can assist them in prevention methods, such as avoiding certain environments.

Written information provided to inmate program participants assists in the identification of the sex offender typology in which they are classified. It also can be used to identify behaviors that helped lead to their offense. It was reported that the information serves as an important tool for participants during and after completion of the program. The Director of the program explained the different stages required to successfully complete the program. The first step toward rehabilitation is reportedly to define oneself as either a rapist or molester, and to recognize and identify the traits that are associated with each typology.

The inmate participants relayed that the typology and the program in general has had a positive effect on their lives. One inmate stated that he initially chose to take the class to gain a positive release decision from the Parole Board. However, he said the program has been an “eye-opening” experience for him that has helped him to understand how demoralizing it can be for victims to suffer from rape and/or molestation. The inmate also stated that the program has taught him how to avoid situations and environments that provide a risk for relapse.

Another inmate participant stated that he was initially reluctant to get involved in the Sex Offender Program. He reportedly only took the class because the Parole Board requires program completion. He also relayed that he was not willing to admit he had a problem. The inmate stated that although he is still in the process of defining himself as a rapist or molester, he believes the program has played a major role in acknowledging his problem.

### **General Population**

The Lebanon Correctional Institution houses General Population inmates in Blocks A-G and H-K. The halls outside the blocks were extremely clean. Each cell contained a television with a wire antenna that stretched across the block for each cell to receive reception. The fire exit was located in the back of the block.

The dayroom, which provides inmates with a place to gather, consisted of seven tables with chairs and a capacity for 28 inmates. Staff relayed that inmates have access to the dayroom on a rotating basis. Reportedly, the dayroom is available in the morning from 7:30 am to 11:00 am, in the afternoon from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm, and in the evening from 6:00 pm to 8:45 pm.

K-Block, the largest of the General Population blocks, housed 254 inmates in double bunks. Two Correctional Officers were present in the block. The block was clean, and the inmates were calm and orderly. The noise level was moderate, with light conversation as the inmates filed in from recreation and work assignments. The temperature in the cellblock was cool.

Inmates complained that K-Block has only three shower stalls, with only two showerheads in functioning order. Staff relayed that it only takes 24 hours to repair the showers. The shower ceiling was cracked, but the floor appeared to be in good condition. A sign was posted outside the showers stating "three in-three out." Of the three showerheads, only one worked. One of the two worked only after banging on it. It was relayed that inmates in the 96 cells on the bottom range use the three showers. However, according to information provided on November 9, 2005, there are 50 cells on the bottom range, which could house a maximum of 100 inmates.

Some inmates complained of roaches in the block. One inmate stated that he killed five roaches in the last three days. LECI staff relayed that the block had just been sprayed. One added, "It's 100 times better than in the last five years." Staff relayed that an outside contractor is used for exterminating services. However, they were uncertain of the frequency of such services. Different staff cited receipt of exterminating services in the block every two months, every three months, and every six months. In follow-up communication received on November 9, 2005, it was clarified that housing areas are sprayed once per month. It was significantly positive to hear inmates comment that officers at LECI are "respectful." Some inmates relayed that there is too much idleness within the blocks, and that "They're slow on programs here." Detailed information on the programs available at LECI is provided in this report, based on the information made available on the subject.

## **Programs**

Historically, LECI has been known as the “program prison.” It is a place where many innovative programs have been initiated or implemented for possible duplication elsewhere. Based on the information provided, LECI does not appear to be lacking in programs. However, the extent to which they have more or less than in the past, in terms of number of programs and in actual enrollment is not known. Idleness has rarely been a reported problem at LECI. With budget cuts system-wide in recent years, programs may have had to be reduced in order to maintain what has been regarded as indisputably essential. However, a strong case can be made that idleness breeds security problems. Because programs alleviate idleness, they serve fundamental safety and security purposes. Some years ago at one particular prison, in which many programs were suddenly eliminated, Correctional Officers approached the CIIC on inspections, advocating the “need” for the return of programs. Officers, who previously were highly skeptical if not critical of programming, had clearly become program advocates after experiencing the prison environment without programs.

## **Inmate Comments**

Inmates also commented on food services. Some stated that too often the same foods are served for lunch and dinner. The most frequently cited and serious concern pertained to birds in Food Services. One stated, “The dining room is like an aviary,” with birds flying around. Inmates stated that they have used the inmate grievance procedure to relay the problem. The responses have reportedly stated that they will “look into it.” Inmates relayed their belief that “They’re required to have screens. It’s a health issue. Check out the third dining hall. Windows are broken. They blame the inmates, but they have cameras in there. Use the cameras, and if an inmate breaks a window, hold them accountable.”

Inmates also relayed the serious allegation that “Staff don’t answer kites.” Responsiveness to kite communication is of fundamental importance. Kite communication is a means by which inmates may seek information or assistance from staff. When concerns are addressed by kite communication, there is no need for inmates to turn to the grievance procedure to seek assistance. Kite responsiveness can reduce the burden on the grievance procedure and also prevent problems from becoming crises.

The LECI Commissary list includes Nicoderm Patches for \$45.10. With the ODRC policy change in November 2005, which bans indoor smoking, some staff at other institutions have discussed the possibility of selling the patches in the commissary, but have expressed concerns regarding possible misuse. Since LECI has been selling the patches for at least a year and a half, they have the benefit of their experience, which may be helpful information to other institutions that may be considering stocking patches in their Commissary for the first time.

## **Segregation**

According to written information provided on site, the Segregation Unit consists of 293 beds, which are spread over three blocks: C-Block, L-Block and R-Block. According to LECI staff on site, assaultive inmates are placed in L-Block. LECI staff also relayed that segregation blocks contain a mixture of Security Control, Disciplinary Control and Local Control statuses, except for R block, which is reportedly for those who failed a drug test, and for those on Suicide Watch. As noted below, at least one inmate in L Block was on Suicide Watch.

In follow-up communication on November 9, 2005, it was reported that LECI has always attempted to separate the three classifications in designated areas. C Block serves as the primary block housing LC inmates, while R Block serves as the primary block housing SC and DC inmates. L-1 is used for inmates pending transfer to a higher security level. It was further noted that there are times when it is necessary to mix statuses to accommodate separations. From a management and functional perspective, it would seem to be easier for staff to house SC, PC investigation, DC and LC in separate areas. From a security perspective, and with what was learned from past incidents, cellies in segregation should be of the same status.

On the day of the inspection, the count sheet documented that 124 inmates were in segregation, with 59 inmates in C-Block, 58 inmates in R-Block, and seven inmates in L-Block. Of the number in segregation, 59 inmates were in Security Control, 55 inmates were in Local Control, and 10 inmates were in Disciplinary Control.

In discussions with institutional staff over the years, LC is typically not viewed as particularly successful as an alternative to disciplinary transfer. However, it is generally viewed as effective in delaying disciplinary transfers. That is, LC placements are viewed as a prerequisite to such transfers.

## **Cell Isolation**

LECI is believed to be the first and remains one of a very few institutions to use “cell isolation,” (termed “cell ice” by inmates), which involves confinement to one’s general population cell. Some have described cell isolation as confinement to one’s cell at times other than work, school or meals while remaining in general population housing and status. Others have indicated that cell isolation can include confinement to one’s cell without release for work or school. In an October 2005 letter, an SOCF inmate wrote about LECI:

Cell isolation has positive aspects as an alternative to segregation placement, while serving as a negative consequence and penalty for a rule violation. However, no written ODRC policy or procedure exists on cell isolation. Practices regarding cell isolation have been the subject of complaint in prior years. ODRC policy and administrative rules regarding disciplinary procedures and penalties should acknowledge the existence of cell isolation and provide clear guidelines for those institutions which have adopted such practices.

## **L-Block and R-Block**

The inspection included both L-Block and R-Block. The hall or corridor outside of the blocks was extremely clean. The entry and exit area of L-block was also clean. Although double bunks were observed and/or reported to be in R block on the day of the inspection, according subsequent clarification, R block and all segregation blocks are reportedly single celled. As noted previously, on November 9, 2005, it was reported that all segregation inmates are single celled and that at least since January 2004, no inmate in R, L or C Block has ever been double celled.

On the day of the inspection, inside recreation cages were observed, consisting of four fenced in areas containing exercise equipment. In R-Block, the noise level was moderate to loud. Inmates appeared to be restless. Although the shower was in need of cleaning, the block itself was clean and cool.

One inmate stated that it is either extremely cold or extremely hot in the block, depending on the weather. A sign reading "Hard of hearing," was posted at one cell. Inmates relayed difficulties with the plumbing and sanitation. One inmate noted that his toilet had been leaking for two days and he reportedly received no assurance when it would be repaired. Another inmate alleged that roaches and rats are an issue in the segregation unit.

L-Block housed seven inmates, including one inmate on Close Suicide Watch. The inmate on Close Suicide Watch requested a CIIC business card but was denied the request by an Officer. A Sergeant subsequently advised the inmate that he would place the card in the inmate's pack up so that he would have access to it after release from Suicide Watch.

## **Medical Services**

The LECI infirmary had three beds in one room, and one infirmary cell, all occupied. Although the infirmary has a small number of beds, staff relayed that the space has always been adequate. The infirmary is reportedly used overnight when an inmate has a test at the Correctional Medical Center the next day, and when the inmate is instructed not to eat or drink prior to the test. LECI staff relayed that the institution is considering installing a bathroom in the back of the medical ward to eliminate the need for inmates to be cuffed and escorted to the restroom by a Correctional Officer. The infirmary was very clean. One inmate porter was cleaning the examination room at the time of the inspection. The porter was complimented on his work, and seemed very proud of the condition of his area.

As to whether any changes have occurred since the release in the fall of 2003 of the ODRC Health Care Review Team Report, LECI nursing staff relayed that they are more aware of ODRC policy, and ODRC forms are more accessible. It was also noted that, "When we say we need something, they pay more attention." That is, the focus has helped to raise the priority of medical services Department wide. The nursing staff also

noted that they began using the ODRC Health Care Service Request Form for Sick Call about five months prior to the inspection.

In the discussion with medical staff, concerns were expressed regarding reported delays in receipt of specialty consults at the Corrections Medical Center, including one six week wait on a biopsy, and other referrals that reportedly took from five to nine months. One inmate reportedly waited nine months to receive a biopsy, though it was reportedly to be conducted in six weeks. Other concerns were also expressed regarding CMC. In one case, an inmate was reportedly transported to CMC for an endoscopy. He was reportedly returned to LECI after 14 days with a referral to have an endoscopy, the same procedure that should have been provided while at CMC on the first transport. As to whether such concerns are communicated to the Central Office medical staff, it was relayed that nurses are supposed to communicate any such concerns through the LECI Health Care Administrator, who may then communicate the concerns to the Central Office medical staff. Nurses have reportedly communicated concerns regarding such delays to CMC staff when presented with such opportunities during scheduling contacts. Communication between the medical staff at the institutions and Central Office was cited in the Health Care Review Team Report as an area in need of improvement.

The LECI nursing staff left an extremely positive impression. The caring attitude of the nursing staff was apparent. Such an attitude is regarded as a strength and certainly a positive aspect of the medical staff that should be encouraged. Where such an attitude particularly among medical staff has been lacking in an institution, problems have inevitably developed. Their willingness to communicate problems and concerns in the medical services delivery system to persons believed to be in a position to assist should be encouraged. Such communication makes it possible for such problems and concerns regarding individual cases to be resolved before they become extremely serious. Such communication is regarded as a necessary part of the solution to improve the medical services delivery system Department wide.

### **Food Services**

In Dining Room One and Dining Room Two, inmate food service workers were seated at a table quietly eating their meal. In Dining Room Three, at least a dozen birds were lying around the top front end of the dining hall, above the serving line. On entry to the dining hall, the birds flew to the other dining halls through an opening or breezeway that connects all three Dining Rooms. Birds flew freely throughout the inmate dining areas. With the possibility if not likelihood of bird feces falling into food, including in the kitchen where the meals are prepared, the presence of the birds constitutes a health issue. One staff person relayed that the birds enter both the staff and inmate dining halls. Droppings reportedly get on the windowsills, which are reportedly washed each quarter with a pressure washer.

LECI staff relayed that they have “all different kinds” of birds, including Doves and pigeons. Inmates in the cellblocks referred to the birds as Swallows and referred to the

Dining Room as an “aviary.” LECI staff relayed that birds enter the facility through several broken windows that flank the top of the dining room walls. Reportedly, the birds had been a problem for several months due to the broken windows, which had not been repaired due to budget constraints. One staff person commented that when the windows “get broken” it only takes a week to get them repaired. Another relayed that they had been trying to obtain an outside contractor to get rid of the birds. One staff person stated that they need a sonar-like device used in stadiums to get rid of the birds. The LECI Health and Safety Committee reportedly obtained quotes of the cost to net the birds. Reportedly, LECI staff had cited the birds and the 40 year-old floor as vulnerable areas.

- In follow-up communication received in September 2004, it was reported that on May 20, 2004 LECI purchased two nets to trap birds at an approximate cost of \$1,000. It was reported that the nets are mounted in the dining room areas and are invisible, which allows the birds to be captured. Once a bird is trapped in the net, the net is lowered to the ground level where the bird is removed and then released outside of the building. In the first day that the nets were in place, two birds were reportedly caught and released. Although these nets were expected to help to control the birds in the Food Services area, it was noted that this is not a new problem for LECI, and the netting purchased is not expected to stop the problem from reoccurring. It was reported to be “nearly impossible to stop birds from entering the facility.”

Reportedly, once the birds enter the prison, they will ultimately make their way to the Food Services area where the LECI staff hoped to be able to trap them in the nets. As to the birds not being a new problem, birds have been observed in the cellblocks on prior CIIC inspections as far back as 1993 when SOCF inmates held in Administrative Control at LECI reportedly enjoyed feeding the birds that flew in the open, unscreened windows. What was new was the receipt of unsolicited concerns from inmates in the cellblocks that the dining room was an “aviary,” and the subsequent observation of at least a dozen birds flying above the tables in the dining room where food is served and eaten. While the presence of birds may be an old problem, the extent to which their presence had either increased in volume or otherwise became problematic as voiced by inmates and staff, was new to the CIIC.

Based on what is reported above, it should be considered a top priority to:

- Repair broken windows, and as the inmates suggest, use available cameras to identify and hold accountable those who break windows.
- Acquire screens for the windows that need them.
- Address the reported problem of open docks in Food Services, OPI and maintenance. Docks have (or should have) lockable doors and gates.

Complaints have been received in 2005 that LECI staff reportedly have left the Food Services dock unlocked and gate open, cited as a security issue. Keeping the dock doors and gates closed and locked except when absolutely necessary, would stop or severely restrict the entrance of birds through the docks.

In the kitchen/food preparation area, the floor was wet reportedly due to a leaking dishwasher in the kitchen. Food was on the wet floor in the dish room. According to staff, the maintenance workers assigned to address the problem had worked on the machine for an entire day to no avail. The dishwasher had also developed electrical problems, which prevented it from being used.

Vegetables were on the floor and table in the kitchen. Trash and vegetables were clogging the floor drain. The floor was in need of a major cleaning. LECI staff relayed that the running water from one faucet was due to a leaking pipe that is reportedly unable to be repaired. Standing water was observed on the floor by a urinal in the inmate restroom off of the kitchen. The same inmate restroom contained a microwave oven. Empty cups and assorted trash items were observed in the dining and kitchen areas. The sinks in the dining and kitchen area were stained and in need of cleaning. Two open cups under a leaking sink contained an unidentified green solution. According to LECI staff, the substance was cleaning solution that does not normally sit out uncovered. Reportedly, an inmate worker had not yet transferred the solution to a spray bottle.

The freezer/food storage area was observed. The storage area was adequate in size. The food in the storage area was covered by a black tarp, with paint chips lying on top of the tarp. Two bags of unsealed garbage were lying in the corner near the dock. According to the Food Services staff, the garbage stemmed from the previous night's meal period and it would be taken out after the upcoming evening dinner meal.

Although locked, the freezer door was ajar by an inch or more. The freezer was also adequate in size. The temperature gauge of the freezer read 50 degrees. The freezer contained bags of chicken that according to LECI staff, were frozen and now thawing. However, several bags of chicken were lying on crates, and fresh blood drippings were observed on the floor.

At least four half filled coffee cups were observed at various locations, including inside a raw meat cooler, beside a soiled cloth glove covering a butter tray. The cooler contained uncovered tubs of raw ground beef and other meat. A soiled metal rail was anchored over the tubs of meat. LECI staff relayed that the meat needed to marinate and then be prepared for a meal later that day.

In the main food services area, a tub of cloth gloves for workers was observed. It could not be determined if the gloves were clean or dirty. However, Food Services staff relayed that the gloves were clean. One staff person added, "They go down every morning to get clean."

In follow-up communication on May 4, 2004, ODRC Central Office staff relayed that LECI has always done well on their internal ODRC audits and inspections. It was also reported that the LECI Warden immediately began the process of addressing the reported concerns, and that the Warden was requested to determine a plan to eliminate the birds, including identifying their means of entry. Continued monitoring of the above, and follow-up with CIIC staff on what corrective actions occurred were assured. In follow-up

communication dated June 2, 2004, the Warden relayed that LECI staff took immediate steps to correct the expressed concerns. From the time of the initial inspection of May 3, 2004, to the follow up communication of June 2, 2004, the ODRC Assistant Director and ODRC South Regional Director each conducted on-site visits to LECI. In addition, the CIIC Chairman conducted a follow-up inspection.

The Food Service Plan of Action provided to CIIC staff on September 7, 2004 included the following:

- The Hobart Corporation fixed all leaks and broken parts on the dishwasher. The task was completed on May 14, 2004 at an approximate cost of \$4,000.
- A food service inspection program was initiated and began on May 20, 2004. A five-page inspection form was created and is completed by the LECI Administrative Manager seven days per week. It takes approximately one hour to complete the inspection. Monday through Friday the inspection is conducted between 12:00 Noon and 9:00 pm. Also, a Shift Supervisor is required to conduct a food service inspection using the same form between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon. The new inspection process allows LECI to have two thorough inspections completed daily. When the inspection is being conducted, one of the Food Service Managers is required to accompany the Inspector through the area.
- The LECI Maintenance Supervisor and Food Service Manager completed a walkthrough of the kitchen, identifying all maintenance issues that need to be resolved.
- The LECI Deputy Warden of Administration met with Food Service Managers and laid out clear expectations for the conditions of the kitchen at all times. It was noted that the state of the Food Service Department on the date of the CIIC inspection was not reflective of how it is the majority of the time.
- Since the inspection, two Food Service Coordinators have been hired. As of the date of the Action Plan of June 2, 2004, another three vacant Food Service Coordinator positions were posted. As of April 19, 2005, only one Food Service position remained unfilled. Voluntary overtime in Food Service was offered to all AFSCME employees due the shortage of food service staff.

### **Contacts and Concerns**

From January 6, 2004 to January 12, 2005, the CIIC received 1,803 contacts system-wide, including 58 from the Lebanon Correctional Institution. During the same time period, the CIIC logged 5,038 concerns system-wide, including 128 concerns/problems from LECI. LECI comprised 3.2% of all contacts, and 2.5% of all concerns system-wide. From January 1, 2005 to September 28, 2005, the CIIC received 1,345 contacts system wide. Lebanon Correctional Institution ranked 11<sup>th</sup> with 54 contacts. From January 1, 2005 to October 25, 2005, the CIIC received 58 contacts from or regarding the Lebanon Correctional Institution, relaying 219 problems or concerns.

**LONDON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION****Inspection Date: April 24, 2006****CIIC Member: Senator Stephen Austria****CIIC Staff****Summary**

Overall, the inspection of London Correctional Institution was very positive. The institutional administration was courteous, knowledgeable, and forthcoming with much information and printed material to assist in the Committee's efforts to conduct the inspection. The staff was credited for smooth daily operations. The institution's agricultural history brings it a measure of unique stature. The Administration was open to suggestions on possible improvements. Budget cuts were cited as the primary hurdle in making improvements.

Inmates did not appear to be overly stressed or anxious within the confines of their environment. Verbal complaints were minimal and were not related to security or safety issues. The participation of inmates in the indoor recreation facility was perhaps the largest observed since the beginning of the biennial inspections.

In particular, education administrators and OPI supervisors were obliging in providing generous information to the Committee. The orderliness and focused attention of the workers in the various OPI industries at London Correctional Institution was equally impressive. Several inmates relayed comments indicative of hope and anticipation of eventual release, reconnection, and employment within their local communities. The CIIC could sense a level of pride from the staff in the programs that are provided to inmates and the value of the skills that may be developed through the OPI industries and re-entry programs.

Statistical data reveals that operationally, London Correctional Institution falls near or below mid-point in a variety of rankings, generally presenting an efficient profile. One exception to that profile during 2005 was found in the percentage of untimely responses to Informal Complaints. During 2005, the institution ranked third highest in untimely responses to Informal Complaints with 48.5% of ICRs receiving an untimely response. During that year, there were approximately two ICRs filed per inmate at the London Correctional Institution, whereas there were 1.4 ICRs filed per inmate statewide. Recent data supplied to the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee for the five-month period January through May 2006 shows there were approximately 533 Informal Complaints *filed*, and approximately 103 Informal Complaint Responses were *untimely*. Data shows a significant improvement to an approximate 19.3% untimely ICR responses in 2006.

Overall, London Correctional Institution presents as a safe institution with no inmate-on-staff assaults to date in 2006. For the period November 2004 through October 2005,

there were only six inmate-on-inmate assaults, ranking the institution near the lowest across the state.

The inspection concluded with a positive tone, with much attentiveness to comments and suggestions, and assurances of follow-up in any area that the Committee requested.

### **Entry**

The entry at the inspection was quick and brief through the main entrance, with routine sign-in, badge-check, and passage through the metal detector.

### **Main Compound**

The inspection of the institution began with a walk through the hallway connecting the entrance building to the main compound. The hallway, known as the 'great hall,' is where administrative offices are located. Beyond the administrative area and hallway is a large open two story area from which there are entrances to Oak A and B inmate dorms and also an 'air door' (like an air curtain) leading onto the yard. Occasionally, birds fly into the area and create a sanitation problem. The ceiling in this area is in great need of repair for peeling paint. The Warden indicated that capital money is being sought through the Controlling Board to fund these repairs.

### **Medical Services Unit**

An inmate had been kept in the infirmary for several months awaiting transfer to Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, following an assault in August 2005, which was fatal to inmate Larry Warwick. The assailant was tried and convicted of involuntary manslaughter. It has long been CIIC's understanding that infirmary cells are not to be used for non-medical purposes except for brief emergency situations. It is therefore not understood why the assailant was held in the infirmary for many months, rather than transferred to a higher security institution or maintained elsewhere in segregation pending court proceedings.

At the inspection, the medical unit was very clean. Staff reported that there is a low incidence of infections, which they attribute to the overall cleanliness of the institution. The area is large compared to some other institutions, having six examination/infirmary rooms with solid walls and private doors, two crisis rooms, and a chronic care room (office) for conferences and counseling. Two of the infirmary cells have reverse airflow.

### **Mental Health Services**

One single mental health services issue or concern was brought to CIIC attention during the inspection, that the psychology staff are reportedly called to do more administrative work than hands-on work, thus time for hands-on care of inmates is reportedly compromised. CIIC staff meet with the DRC Chief of the Bureau of Mental Health Services on a quarterly basis. The issue cited at London Correctional Institution has been

relayed by staff at other institutions previously, and has been discussed with the Bureau Chief.

### **Food Services**

The inmate dining room is arranged with two serving lines in the center of the hall with four-seat steel bolted tables on both sides of the hall, with total seating for 326 inmates. One side can seat up to 178 inmates and the other side can seat up to 148 inmates. There is a steel rail divider in the center of the hall. During meal periods, ten staff, including three assigned Correctional Officers and additional kitchen staff, are usually present. The officers manage seating so that inmates find a seat quickly and the flow is maintained.

The condition of the dining hall appeared clean, yet there was some orange drink observed on the floor. The kitchen staff including the food servers in the line, were wearing hairnets.

The kitchen contained five coolers and three freezers. The contents within each unit are kept at quantities so that whenever they have a malfunction, all contents may be relocated into an operating unit.

At the inspection, ground beef was in the thawing stage in one of the coolers. Frozen quantities of meat are thawed at 32 degrees no longer than 24-32 hours and nothing is kept in the cooler for more than three days. The thawing process requires that meat packages be placed on large steel trays to catch blood that is rendered as it thaws. The use of trays assures that no blood drips onto the floor, which could cause safety and sanitation issues. The cooler also contained rolling carts with multiple shelves containing components of upcoming meals, including breaded fish portions and 'hot-pocket' bundles. At the inspection, one corner of the plastic wrap covering one tray of the 'hot-pockets' had fallen away from the food, leaving a few of the items exposed to the open air.

At the inspection, all equipment was in working order except the patty machine and an industrial sanitizer machine (dishwasher) for kitchen equipment, which were reportedly broken.

At the inspection, four kitchen porters were continuously maintaining the floor by mopping water spillage, especially near the four 30-gallon kettles that are used for heating large quantities of water in the preparation of large quantities of liquid-based meal components. The current painted concrete kitchen floor appeared clean, albeit damp in certain areas. Staff relayed that the floor is scheduled for renovation through installation of an Epoxy coating that is applied as a semi-liquid and hardens to a durable surface.

## **Garment Factory**

Behind a fenced area on the floor, there are bolts of fabric held in storage and cut as needed. Tools are kept in a locked tool cage using the chit shadow method. The Manager has a locked office at one end of the floor. Corrections Officers also staff the area during the daily shift. There is only a single day shift and no other shifts in operation. The single shift produces nearly all the basic garments worn by inmates across the state in the adult system and in the youth facilities.

The only reported issue of concern in the garment plant pertained to staff resentment over an appointment that created stress among the staff and had an impact on the overall operations. The inmates were reportedly aware of the strife among staff. It was noted that a mediation team was brought in to deal with the situation, which has been resolved.

At the inspection, it was noted that the ceilings in the garment plant were in need of scraping and repainting. The existing paint is peeling. Reportedly, this repair has been noted and the institution is awaiting funds to cover the cost.

## **Old Soaphouse**

The building known as the 'Old Soaphouse' contains the OPI brush plant and the OPI dental lab. This building is an old brick building that was formerly used to make soap. Since the 1980s, soap has been made at SCI. The old building has a history and represents an older architecture with very large paned windows looking onto the institution's stockade. The environment within the space was very bright and actually inviting on the sunny day of the inspection. There are three floors in the building, with brush operations on the first floor, dental lab on the second floor, and both brush and dental on the third floor. CIIC inspected the first and second floors.

The visibility on the first floor of the building appeared to be low. There are very wide 'pillars' down the middle of the floor, which cause considerable areas to be out of direct view at certain angles. The absence of mirrors, except for one, adds to the loss of line-of-sight and the creation of blind spots. The "walls" of floor-to-ceiling steel fence, installed with locking gates, somewhat offsets the lack of visibility to some of the open areas, as the fence segments the openness of the floor. In addition to what were regarded as blind spots, the old stairwell, with its three-story open shaft down the center, appeared to present a potential safety concern. The building was acknowledged to be somewhat of a 'supervision concern'. It was suggested that the addition of some form of grilled column might be given consideration as a means of making the open stairwell shaft more secure.

One renovation relevant to the building's safety is the effective manner in which restrooms have been modified. Simply, the restroom areas are encircled by a tiled outer half-wall that surrounds the stalls. Thus, a version of full privacy is provided without sacrificing the security of the area.

## **Brush Factory**

The brush plant is considered to be one of the state's industrial training programs and produces all of the brushes and mops used by state agencies in Ohio. "Walls" of steel fence with locks enclose the first floor area occupied by the brush factory.

At the inspection, the brush production factory was engaged in the production of large brushes for use on street cleaner trucks. There are three assembly lines in place on the first floor; and three additional lines reportedly operate on the third floor. Each line engages approximately 10-13 inmates in the production of the brushes.

During the inspection, there appeared to be an effort among many of the inmates to work quickly and to produce efficiently. Inmates were observed threading bristles (21-24 sets per brush) through a brush base.

## **Dental Lab**

The dental lab is located on the second floor of the 'Old Soaphouse' building and employs approximately 39 inmates in the production of dentures, bridges, and other dental prosthetics and appliances needed by all ODRC institutions across the state.

Inmates sit at work surfaces in rows, each worker having his own set of tools needed for the assigned step in the production process. Approximately seven inmates are seated per row, with another row facing them. The inmates have the advantage of being able to engage in conversation with other inmates at adjacent workstations as they work, although the environment is noisy with grinders generating a level of noise so as to prevent much talking at low voice levels. The acoustics did not provide for noise to be absorbed well. In addition to the noise level, the odors from the compounds and agents used in making dental appliances were strong.

## **Yard and Recreation**

The outdoor yard at the institution includes large open, concrete and grass areas, baseball diamond with back fence, concrete walking/running track around the baseball field, concrete area dedicated to handball against a building wall, pull-up/dip bars, and basketball courts. Three watchtowers are present in the outside recreation area; however, two of these towers are scheduled for removal.

In the inside recreation center, CIIC observed a large gymnasium and basketball courts equipped with wooden bleachers along one wall, a separate weight room, equipment check-out room, and a large arts and craft room.

The recreation equipment check-out system uses a chit-shadow method for storage and an identification card (ID) check-out system. The weight equipment in the weight room consists of 28 Universal machines and a variety of other equipment and apparatus,

making it the largest among the adult institutions. As in other institutions, there are no free-weights available to inmates. Reportedly, there are no cross-trainers or treadmills.

It was noted that the inmates use all recreational equipment at their own risk. CIIC offered a suggestion that the institution provide an initial orientation, written instructions, cautions, and explanations of each of the machines and apparatus to each inmate upon entry. Each inmate could then be required to sign a liability release in order to be allowed to use the equipment. It was also noted during the inspection that the ceilings in the indoor recreation center were peeling from old paint in a similar manner as in some other parts of the institutional buildings.

### **Educational Services**

The high school and vocational training wing of the institution is spacious with a wide central hallway, high ceilings, and multiple classrooms on each side of the hallway. The classrooms are large, light and bright.

At the inspection, CIIC observed portions of two non-academic classes. First, a re-entry class covering volunteering within the community offered engaging lecture and enthusiastic dialogue, including some brainstorming on getting connected with the community, networking, how to share skills and abilities, and identifying personal perceptions of community concerns and interpersonal relationships in that regard. The dialogue in the class specifically dealt with changing the perception of oneself and changing one's stereotype of themselves to being "not all bad." Also, the class discussed recognizing forms of acceptance and how to take 'no' for an answer and keep on trying. Further, the group identified some statewide programs that could benefit from participation from released offenders.

Second, CIIC observed part of a class called Children of Incarcerated Parents, which is a class designed to help incarcerated parents understand their children and the specific issues and concerns that their children are likely to be experiencing. During the time that CIIC observed, the class was developing a "Round Robin Poem" in which each inmate wrote a line on a sheet of paper and then passed it to the next inmate to repeat the exercise. Each inmate folded back their writing before passing it on, so that their contribution was not seen or known by succeeding inmates. Inmates were directed to write what they were thinking, feeling, or other random thoughts they were having on that day. The collaboratively produced poem would be read to the group at the close of class. The exercise is reportedly one that came from an individual associated with Alvis House, which is a re-entry facility or halfway house. Inmates reported that they feel the class makes them better people and helps them develop a positive lifestyle. Inmates also reported that they are enthusiastic about taking the class, which extends until the inmates' release.

**Oak A and B**

The unit is outfitted with cubicles rather than cells. The ceilings in the dorm are high and covered with stucco. The general condition of these ceilings is good, except that considerable dust and dirt clinging to the surface was observed.

**Spruce E Unit**

The Spruce E Unit, formerly the segregation unit for the institution, consists of double-occupancy cells that resemble the look of 'jail cells' in appearance, with floor-to-ceiling steel grate front wall and door. Staff relayed that inmates prefer this unit to the dorms because they believe that they have more privacy and space. The light in these cells was poor, quite dark in some cases Staff reported that inmates like it that way. Plus, as noted above, the cells in Spruce E are reportedly highly desirable, partly due to increased privacy than what is found in cubicles in dormitory housing.

**Segregation**

The current segregation unit, Special Management Housing, contains cells with a solid steel door with a food drop slot, cuff port with lock, and a square, barred window in the door. Each segregation cell has a small square window approximately 20" x 20" and covered with mesh such that the steel bars across the windows are inaccessible to the inmate. This is done as a safety precaution. In the past at another institution, suicides by hanging have occurred by tying a sheet to the bars in the window. Since then, such mesh or screening has been installed at the institution to block access to the bars.

During the inspection, one of the segregation cells was not in use because there was no running water in the cell; therefore, it was used for storage. Observation of another segregation cell revealed mildew forming in the shower. Observation of a third segregation cell revealed that an inmate or inmates had apparently spent considerable time forming large paper 'spit-balls' or paper wads and had thrown them onto the ceiling air vent. They effectively covered nearly 75 percent of the surface of the vent. No inmate was in the cell at the time of the inspection. Unit staff took mental note of the presence of the 'spit-balls.'

There are two suicide or safe-cells within the unit. The cell doors are steel-barred and covered in a heavy clear 'Plexane' plate. Beds in the cells are box-like, vinyl-padded beds attached to the floor. The DRC policy on Close and Constant Watch is posted as a very large poster under Plexiglass on the hallway wall in the Segregation Unit.

## **Religious Services**

It was noted during the exit conference at the inspection that there was no Kairos involvement at London Correctional Institution, as is seen in some of the other adult institutions. However, the Institutional Chaplain explained that there are some local churches that do have presence in the institution approximately three times per week.

## **Library**

The library at London Correctional Institution was not open on the date of the inspection due to the absence of the librarian. Although a Correctional Officer was posted at the main desk, no inmates were permitted to access the materials, except in the law library section. The library is located in a large, open, ground level room with windows along one side. Compared to many of the other areas in the institution, the ceiling height in the library was low. Natural light filtered well into one side of the library, but interior lighting was in place to light the majority of the room. Some of the stacks blocked certain areas of the library from full view. Staff relayed that the layout of the stacks had been modified approximately one year ago so that greater line-of-sight and visibility was achieved.

During the inspection, it was noted that there are still some blind spots in the library. Staff reported that they keep a close watch on the space when in use by frequently walking around the stacks to monitor the space.

During the inspection it was noted that the ceilings in the library are have exposed pipes and architectural rafters or tube-like details. While the network of pipes and other architectural details was clean and in excellent condition, there is some concern about potential safety risks that these pipes might present.

Restroom provisions available to the library consist of stalls and sinks in a separate corner of the library with the same 'half-wall' architecture found in the OPI plants. The use of the ceramic-tiled, shoulder-high, half-walls provides privacy, yet enough visibility to assure that staff are able to monitor the safety of the area.

**LORAIN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**  
**Inspection Date: April 4, 2006**  
**CIIC Member: Representative Michael DeBose**  
**CIIC Staff**

### **Summary**

Overall, the inspection was very positive. Institution staff were extremely courteous, willing to discuss issues, and were open to constructive suggestions. The observed dynamic between inmates and staff also bespoke a mutually beneficial, "controlled calm." As an example, in the observed housing unit, inmates immediately responded to the direction of the corrections officers. Despite the large number of inmates housed on bunk beds in the middle of the dorm, the area was devoid of conversation and classical music played via radio.

The Cadre inmates also appeared to appreciate the secure environment. All inmates seemed relaxed and content with their institutional assignment (as compared to another institution). Inmates reported no fear or threats by other inmates. Inmates did not report fear of staff retaliation or other misconduct. Inmates also were somewhat racially mixed, even in casual company. Several of the inmates reported time spent at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (Level 4 security) and yet appeared to be very well adjusted to the Level 3 environment.

Reception institutions tend to sacrifice educational programs, as the majority of inmates are there for a short duration. However, Lorain Correctional Institution had several short educational programs for the reception inmates, and one Cadre inmate reported that he was involved in correspondence courses for college credit. Inmates involved in the Canine program appeared to appreciate their ability to participate.

Although inmates did report complaints about the food, the food was plentiful, palatable, and of an appropriate temperature. The Kitchen area appeared to be clean, as did the inmate workers. Inmates assigned to the Kitchen reported that the food was always freshly made and they did not report any sanitary issues.

All areas of the institution appeared to be very clean and the grounds were well-maintained.

An issue of concern at Lorain Correctional Institution is overcrowding, a problem common to all of the reception institutions. Staff reported that Intake ranges from 250-300 per week. In the housing unit, the cells were filled and bunk beds were stacked in the middle, open area. According to DRC staff, the population increase is indeed a concern as the population has climbed to around 2,100 in the past 12 months (reported as 1,816 at the time of the CIIC inspection). According to information provided by the institution on-site, the main design capacity was 750 inmates.

In spite of this concern, the institution appears to be doing an excellent job at both housing short-term reception inmates, as well as providing long-term opportunities for the Cadre inmates. The atmosphere was positive in its sense of discipline and order.

### **Entry**

The overall appearance of the facility upon entry was very positive, clean, and well maintained. A circular stone fountain was built in the front of the entry building in the past year, which is a positive addition. The lobby area was very clean and orderly.

### **Overcrowding**

According to both inmates and staff, the institution is overcrowded, as demonstrated by the number of bunk beds on the floor of the housing unit. Overcrowding is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Overcrowding can lead to heightened tension and stress, for both inmates and staff, and result in an increase in incidents, including violence. Facility conditions are also negatively impacted by crowding, due to more demand on limited space and support structures.

### **Cadre Inmate Housing**

Inmates were seated around the tables, playing cards, conversing. Some inmates were doing laundry. Racially, the inmate groups were mixed. There did not appear to be any obvious cliques or gangs formed. Overall, the inmates appeared to be positive and the complaints were minor. The inmates reported that there was no tension between inmates and reported little STG activity. They enjoyed the work and believed that the institution was better than their previous experiences.

### **Segregation**

Overall, the Segregation area was very clean, with fresh paint in the main area. There was also an office area for staff that appeared to be very orderly. The entire area was mostly quiet and inmates were conversational.

The inside Recreation area was caged, and included a sit-up bench and a dip bar. The outside Recreation area consisted of a cement, caged area that had one basketball hoop mounted on the wall. Although for the most part clean, the outside Recreation area had cigarette butts littered on the floor. According to staff, these were most likely dropped by segregation officers.

Outdoor exercise can be extremely important to the physical and mental health of the inmates, affecting their behavior, attitude, and overall environment in segregation. Thus, the extent to which inmates in segregation are permitted to exercise outside of their cells, both indoors and outdoors, can ultimately have a positive effect on inmate behavior, thus aiding the Officers who supervise Segregation. Based on outdoor recreation areas for 4B and segregation inmates at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, Death Row formerly

at the Mansfield Correctional Institution, segregation at other Level Three (close security) prisons, and even the new outdoor recreation area for Level Five inmates at the Ohio State Penitentiary, consideration should be given to improvements to maximize the potential for real physical exercise outdoors for those in segregation.

Examining the Recreation areas at LORCI, it should be noted that the primary function of LORCI segregation staff is to provide a secure environment for the inmates until they are classified and sent to their parent institutions.

### **Mental Health Services**

The Mental Health Services area consisted of a waiting room and several offices. All areas appeared to be clean and orderly. All Mental Health staff persons were open and friendly, very willing to discuss issues of concern pertaining to inmates and the current level of services provided. The Mental Health Administrator was particularly helpful and open regarding the needs that she perceived in her department.

### **Residential Treatment Unit Access**

Based on communication from RTU inmates in the past, there was a previous mixing of security levels with the RTUs, which reportedly created serious difficulties for the RTU inmate patients. In most of the cases brought to the CIIC's attention, the inmates were Level Two (Medium Security) inmates who were transferred to Level Three (Close Security) RTUs for mental health purposes. It is therefore regarded as a positive factor that the security level of the RTU is reportedly matched to the security level of the inmate RTU patient.

### **Medical Services**

The Medical Services area appeared clean, sanitary, and uncluttered.

### **Educational/ Vocational Programs and Services**

Lorain Correctional Institution offers a very limited selection of educational and vocational programs, due to its Reception status.

### **Team Greyhound Adoption of Ohio**

While on the inspection, the CIIC visited a Cadre housing unit that included inmates who were involved in the Team Greyhound Adoption project. All inmates reported a very high level of satisfaction with the program. Some inmates cited the program as being responsible for their rehabilitation.

According to information relayed by staff, LORCI Cadre inmates take great pride in this program. Staff expressed that it gives the inmate a sense of responsibility, compassion,

self-confidence, and accomplishment when they take part in preparing the animals for adoption.

### **Food Services**

Historically, Ohio prisons have typically assigned large numbers of inmates to work in Food Services. It was not unusual for an institution to report having 200 or more inmate Food Service workers. However, that trend may be changing, and the change serves good purposes. The difficulties of meeting staff supervision needs for such a large number of workers are lessened with a reduced number of workers. The reduced number of Food Service workers provides less of a drain on other job assignments and opportunities.

Staff relayed that the institution currently uses volunteer Reception inmates in Food Services. A total of 100 such volunteers are involved in this program, with 35-40 serving at any given time. Of the Cadre population, about 30 Cadre are assigned to Food Services, serving five days on and two days off.

In order to obtain these "volunteers" from the Reception population, staff relayed that incentives are offered such as extra food. After all inmates have been served, the inmate workers are allowed to eat a second time. In addition, given the predominately idle status of the Reception inmates who are awaiting transfer to their parent institution, staff relayed its belief that the large incentive is the inmate volunteers' ability to get out of their cell and to be involved in a structured activity.

The use of incentives to achieve willing volunteers is considered to be a huge plus. Some institutions have made it a practice to assign inmates to Food Services as an entry, "bottom level" work assignment. Inmates adopt this attitude and become negligent in their duties, which reveals itself in the poor quality of food. As Food Services is a frequently cited issue to CIIC staff by inmates, and as it is something that affects the entire inmate population, institutions should provide incentives to ensure that the inmates in Food Services want to be there, and thus put forth the best effort for overall institutional benefit.

### **Searches, Seizures and Shakedowns**

Lorain Correctional Institution has made some extremely positive strides in the last year toward cracking down on the flow of contraband into the institution. In particular, Lorain Correctional Institution reports a laudable number of major shakedowns. According to the 2004 Chief Inspector's Annual Report, the average number of major shakedowns performed during that year was a mere 1.6 system-wide. Thirteen institutions reported conducting zero major shakedowns during 2004.

All of the efforts listed above are necessary in order to provide adequate deterrence to criminal activity. It is hoped that LORCI continues on this path during the current year.

In light of the low 2003 numbers, it is unknown whether Lorain Correctional Institution benefits from being a Reception facility, as perhaps the low numbers indicate that inmates are not at the institution for sufficient time to establish trafficking networks, or whether the institution staff just have not been able to find the drugs.

The new DRC Director spoke at a recent CIIC meeting and reported that the sudden increase in the number of inmates is mostly due to an increased number of drug convictions. If this is the case, it stands to reason that more inmates are likely to be drug-involved even while incarcerated. This does not appear to be reflected in the investigation numbers, however.

## **Conclusions**

Overall, Lorain Correctional Institution appears to be performing extremely well: Facility conditions all appeared to be adequate, tension appeared to be low among inmates, and no serious concerns were voiced by staff or inmates.

Unfortunately, LORCI's greatest challenge is overcrowding. The reception has no control over intake or admissions from the local detention facilities. Clearly the DRC executive staff are directing their attention to the issue of overcrowding and CIIC staff fully applaud all efforts to provide the facilities with the necessary resources to manage increasing populations.

Overcrowding also relates to the staff-reported desire for increased Mental Health programs. Overcrowding has reportedly reduced Mental Health services to primarily assessment and handling crises. Although most of the LORCI inmates are headed out to parent institutions that may be able to offer a fuller slate of Mental Health programs, the permanently assigned Cadre population may experience this lack of programming.

The Educational program appears to be running well, with an above average number of GEDs administered and an above average passage rate. LORCI also serves a high number of children in the Reading Room. In addition, the short-term career-technical Fiber Optic and Coaxial Cabling class is an excellent step toward equipping inmates with useful skills that will increase employment and thereby reduce recidivism.

All housing units, recreation areas, medical services, and food services all met or exceeded expectations. Inmates housed in Segregation voiced facility condition concerns and the recreation areas appeared to be lacking in meaningful recreation, but for the most part, Segregation also met expectations.

Efforts should be made by staff to determine the causes of the discrepancies found in the data for the inmate grievance procedure. That said, the rate of grievances granted or denied appears to be favorable. Hopefully, that is a reflection of the inmate's perception that the inmate grievance procedure is an effective problem-solving mechanism, and that each grievance is decided on its merits.

The increasing number of investigations initiated by the Investigator is also taken to be a positive. In particular, the impressive leap in the number of employee strip searches or pat downs is extremely positive, as is the increased number of shakedown. Hopefully, the increased activity of the Investigator will have the intended result of decreased contraband flow.

**MADISON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION****Inspection Date: April 24, 2006****CIIC Member: Senator Stephen Austria****CIIC Staff****Entry**

The overall appearance of the facility upon entry was very positive, clean, and well maintained. The lobby area was very clean and orderly.

**Inmate Housing**

Facilities appeared to be mostly well maintained and clean. Although the showers and the floors could have been cleaner, the general perception of the facilities was positive.

**Segregation**

Overall, the Segregation area was very clean, with no apparent concerns. There was also an office area for staff that appeared to be very orderly. The entire area was mostly quiet and inmates were conversational. Inmates are allowed a very limited amount of personal property, pursuant to ODRC Administrative Rules.

Outdoor exercise can be extremely important to the physical and mental health of the inmates, affecting their behavior, attitude, and overall environment in segregation. Thus, the extent to which inmates in segregation are permitted to exercise outside of their cells, both indoors and outdoors, can ultimately have a positive effect on inmate behavior, thus aiding the Officers who supervise Segregation.

**Dry/Safe Cells**

The Segregation unit has two "dry cells." Dry cells do not include plumbing facilities, such as a sink or toilet. As relayed by staff, dry cells are not safe cells. Dry cells are used approximately once per year for an inmate suspected of swallowing a balloon of drugs. Otherwise, dry cells are used to store extra mattresses for Segregation.

Posted outside of the cell of each inmate who is on Constant or Close Watch is a "Watch Property List" on which is marked the items that the item is allowed, such as: dentures; suicide gown, suicide blanket, glasses, jumpsuit, mattress, pillow, reading material, sheets/blankets, and toiletries.

**Residential Treatment Unit Access**

Based on communication from RTU inmates in the past, there was a previous mixing of security levels with the RTUs, which reportedly created serious difficulties for the RTU inmate patients. In most of the cases brought to the CIIC's attention, the inmates were Level Two (Medium Security) inmates who were transferred to Level Three (Close

Security) RTUs for mental health purposes. Current practices in which the DRC Bureau of Classification reportedly makes the decision on actual placement based on the inmate's classification and available bed space in the RTUs, provide assurance that previous problems will not reoccur. It is regarded as a positive factor that the security level of the RTU is reportedly matched to the security level of the inmate RTU patient.

### **Medical Services**

The Medical Services area appeared clean, sanitary, and uncluttered. There are five cells, all of which are "safe" cells, meaning that they have been outfitted with an eye toward suicide watch needs. In addition, there are two safe cells in the juvenile area. Staff relayed that the X-ray technician is shared with London Correctional Institution. There is also an examination room and a telemedicine system room.

### **Educational/Vocational Programs and Services**

All programs are available to the inmate at no cost. The scheduling of the programs is flexible, allowing the inmate to enter at any time and proceed at the inmate's own learning pace.

Of particular note within Madison Correctional Institution's education program is the access to college courses. Greater education boosts an inmate's employability once he is released to the community and seeking employment. Both an interest in education and access to employment are highly likely to reduce recidivism and are encouraged. Staff relayed that videoconferencing provides inmates with access to Columbus State College. In addition, there are reportedly job fairs with prospective employers from Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Dayton.

During the inspection, Senator Austria and CIIC staff attended a Horticulture career-technical class. There were approximately ten students. The Horticulture class included a Spanish language component to facilitate communication with Spanish-speaking only workers in the horticulture industry. At the time of the inspection, inmates were learning numbers. All inmates appeared to be engaged in the class activity, writing on paper, or volunteering answers to the teacher's questions.

### **Library**

The libraries are open daily, including evenings and most weekends. Hours of operation are posted in all living units and program areas. Inmates may check out up to three non-legal, non-reference books at one time. Books may be checked out for seven days at a time and renewed twice. Inmates also have access to a Library copier, which will make copies for five cents per page.

During the CIIC inspection, the Library was visited on Zone B. Staff relayed that some multilingual material was available to the inmates. While on the inspection, inmates

relayed a concern that the Library should be open more. Other than that, the Library appeared to be appropriately clean, tidy, and filled with books.

### **Reading Room**

Madison Correctional Institution is in the lower half of the institutions in terms of number of children served (year to date). As this program furthers the family and re-entry initiatives by creating positive experiences between inmates and their children, it is hoped that MACI maximizes the potential benefits by increasing the number of participants.

### **Youthful Offenders**

In addition to the PE class, the juvenile segregation recreation area was also observed. The juvenile segregation recreation area consisted of a small caged area outside. The juveniles appeared to be sitting, inactive. Given the possible benefits of allowing the juveniles—particularly the juveniles in segregation status for disciplinary issues—to work off stress and frustration, consideration should be given to developing methods of increasing motive and opportunity to exercise among those in segregation.

### **Food Services**

Pursuant to CIIC's statutory obligations, CIIC Member State Senator Austria and Staff ate lunch in the Inmate Dining Room. For the meal, inmates were served hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, an orange, and a beverage. The meal was the appropriate temperature, was of a sufficient quantity, and appeared to be nutritious.

The Inmate Dining Room consisted of scattered, square tables bolted to the floor with four chairs total, one on each side. All facilities appeared to be clean and hygienic. There was a low buzz as inmates talked, but no inordinate amount of noise or confusion.

The reduced number of Food Service workers provides less of a drain on other job assignments and opportunities. Staff at Madison Correctional Institution may want to consider this aspect, given their high number of inmates reportedly assigned to Food Services.

### **Comprehensive Education Programming**

DRC policy 67-MNH-12 states that Comprehensive Sex Offender Programming is "programming for medium-high and high risk sex offenders that addresses all sex offender treatment goals and objectives." According to staff, the program is 18 months long and includes elements of group therapy. Staff relayed that a current drawback of the system is the lack of aftercare. After the completion of the Comprehensive Education Program is completed, there is no official ongoing programming for offenders seeking additional treatment. However, staff also relayed that there is an unofficial group that meets to continue working toward healthy handling of sexual deviant urges.

## Use of Force Committee Investigation-Extensions

According to the Madison Correctional Institution, the institution reported no extensions for Use of Force Committee investigations for the entire year period of May 2005 through April 2006. This is an excellent rate of response to Use of Force incidents that hopefully will continue throughout the coming months.

## Investigations

**Table: Confiscated Contraband in CY 2003 - 2005**

| Year | Marijuana  | Cocaine (g)   | Heroin (g) | Pills |
|------|------------|---------------|------------|-------|
| 2003 | 1.11 oz.   | 0             | 0          | 0     |
| 2004 | 1.11 g.    | 0             | 0          | 0     |
| 2005 | 4 balloons | 1 small piece | 0          | 6     |

The numbers appear to be very low, especially given the size of the institution. It is unknown whether this is due to true inmate compliance with the inmate rules of conduct. Of interest, the exact same amount of marijuana was reported as confiscated in two consecutive years.

## Conclusions

Madison Correctional Institution appears to be a well-run institution. MACI has the unique mission of handling inmates with special needs, including youthful offenders and sex offenders.

Facility conditions all appeared to be good, and inmate and staff morale appeared to be good. Neither staff nor inmates voiced any serious concerns. All housing units, recreation areas, medical services, and food services met or exceeded expectations.

Although there is no requirement to have the racial composition of staff reflect the inmate population, extreme disparities can have a major impact on prison environments, negatively affecting safety and security purposes. CIIC has included system-wide data on the staff racial breakdown to assist in increasing awareness of the issue and improvements where warranted.

Madison Correctional Institution offers its inmates numerous programs. In particular, its Education program and youthful offender programs appear to be extensive. In addition, the business classes offered through Columbus State Community College are an opportunity to inmates that is not offered at every prison. Madison Correctional Institution administers a high number of GEDs in comparison with all institutions system wide, with a slightly above average passage rate.

The Sex Offender Risk Reduction Center has an extensive program in place to address the treatment needs of sex offenders. The addition of a Mandatory Deniers program, with a tiered level of sanctions for refusal to participate, appears to be particularly important

and necessary to deal with the offenders who may be most in need of treatment—those who rationalize and deny the original offense. However, improvements can still be made. The first reported need is for an aftercare program to allow inmates who have gone through the Comprehensive Education Program to continue to learn how to address deviant sexual desires in a healthy manner. The second reported need is for internal research of sex offender recidivism rates to determine what aspects are working and what could be improved.

Madison Correctional Institution deserves positive recognition for the high number of inmates that are tested for drug use. In addition, the statistics show that a very low number of inmates test positive, which appears to be indicative of an excellent program of deterrence to drug use.

CIIC staff appreciate the fact that Madison Correctional Institution has responded promptly to inquiries. The Inspector has relayed her desire to address inmate concerns appropriately and in accordance with DRC policies and administrative rules and appears to be fulfilling all of her job responsibilities with laudable diligence. In addition, the Inspector is to be praised for reporting zero grievance extensions in a 12-month period.

**MARION CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**  
**Inspection Report Date: December 29, 2005**  
**CIIC Member: Representative Robert Latta**  
**CIIC Staff**

**Innovative Programs**

PNN (Prison News Network)- Provides high quality video productions and graphics that addresses viewers needs in order to develop skills, educate, inform and entertain. PNN produces weekly programs for the MCI population. In addition PNN produces many special project videos and print graphics for MCI, DR&C and outside organizations. The program provides support to MCI's staff for in-service training that is unavailable elsewhere. PNN supports staff and inmates with team training presentations such as Power Point, video, poster, banners, newsletters, etc. Support is provided in all areas that are not security related.

Exodus Faith-Based Reentry- The Exodus Program assists MCI offenders in best utilizing MCI programs in preparation for release and then connecting participants to resources that are vital for their successful reentry. It accomplishes this with the assistance of an inside inmate mentor and an outside faith mentor.

**Entry**

The CIIC security check at the entry building was orderly and systematic. Identification and personal articles were checked quickly, efficiently, and thoroughly. One CIIC staff person's name was not on the Officer's CIIC checklist, though Central Office was previously provided with an updated list for distribution to the Wardens. The area in the entry building was clean and the temperature was comfortable. Staff were courteous, respectful, thorough and organized.

**Grounds**

Although the CIIC remained indoors throughout the inspection, the institutional grounds appeared to be clean and well maintained as viewed through windows.

**Visitation**

The visitation area at the Marion Correctional Institution consists of a large room with a wall of glass windows, making visitors and inmates observable to staff. The room is filled with rows of chairs, a wall of vending machines and a children's corner that includes toys and other entertaining items for children. Open visitation is Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm, and Saturday and Sunday by reservation only. No visitation is permitted on holidays.

## **Food Services**

The food services operation at the Marion Correctional Institution was observed. The lunch meal consisted of chef/lettuce/tuna salad, three slices of white bread and butter, mashed potatoes, peas, frosted chocolate cake and milk. The flavor of the food was good and the salad was fresh. Food temperatures were appropriately warm, or cool. The food portions were appropriate. Meals are provided at MCI at an average cost of 85 cents per meal.

It was reported that the cafeteria has a seating capacity for 420 inmates, but not every seat is filled at one time. Within the dining hall, handicapped accessible seating for up to 20 inmates is available. Inmates are called to the meal by block. The inmates at the lunch meal appeared to be calm, relaxed and orderly. The dining hall was clean, with steel tables and benches that were bolted to the floor. Staff relayed that there are generally no complaints about food services.

The food services area was staffed by two Corrections Officer in the dining hall, and two Corrections Officers in the kitchen.

## **Inmate Housing**

### **J BLOCK**

J Block houses General Population inmates, and has a reported capacity to house 116 inmates. Inmates in J Block are double celled, unless they are participating in the dog-training program.

J Block was notably clean. The block was equipped with three showers. Mounted ceiling fans to provide for air circulation were observed. Mounted mirrors in the corners of the central area of the block provide added security.

The interpersonal environment within J Block seemed to be respectful and pleasant. Communication among inmates and staff appeared to be quite good and there was an element of productive activity prevalent. The Warden explained that in compliance with the philosophical posture of the institution, the inmates in J Block are kept busy and always learning something. Through activities such as fundraisers that include sales of pies and Krispy Kreme donuts, and participation in special groups such as Red Cross, AmVets, a NAACP chapter, or Toastmasters, inmates in J Block are encouraged to build hope.

While two inmates complained that the measures of “high security” at MCI caused them to feel as though they were being locked down in their housing unit without the freedom to come and go, neither desired to locate to another institution. If given a choice, both preferred to remain at MCI. In relaying to the Warden the above mentioned, she noted that keeping the dorms/blocks locked, with only movement out for scheduled activities or on passes, effectively prevents inmates from going out of place to housing units. It is a safety and security measure that positively impacts the environment, which was regarded

as relaxed, orderly and productive with absolutely no signs of idleness, except, of course, in segregation.

The Warden relayed that she and her staff try to exemplify the philosophy of respect by being accessible and responsive to inmates. Evidence of this commitment to the goal was observed during an inspection when an inmate approached her and she took time to listen and immediately asked staff to talk further with the inmate. The inmate's concern was given immediate priority attention from the highest level of administration.

#### **O BLOCK-SEGREGATION**

O Block, which houses inmates in Segregation, has a total capacity of 127 inmates, with occupancy by 58 inmates at the time of the inspection. It was relayed that the longest time an inmate has remained in O Block was 159 days.

The cells in O Block are not separated by status, such as Security Control, Local Control or Disciplinary Control, but rather the statuses are mixed throughout the range. The status of each inmate is documented in the segregation control center. The name of each inmate is maintained at the entrance of the block, and a staff contact log is maintained each time staff check on an inmate. The inmate count is taken six times, every twenty-four hours.

O Block is complete with four ranges with 18 cells per range. The cells are constructed of concrete and used as single-cells units, although a few are outfitted and used as double-bunk cells, with a bolted steel bed, steel sink and toilet. Cell doors are padlocked steel with one 5" by 8" glass window. The food slots are kept locked, except when meals are dispersed. Inmate porters distribute the meals to the inmates. Staff relayed that the porters do a good job, and that the meal distribution works well.

All plumbing operated correctly at the time of the inspection. The lighting in the block was subtle, making the interior of the block seem dingy. The condition of the floors, walls and ceiling in O Block appeared to be satisfactory, except for some cells in need of cleaning, and which emitted a foul odor.

The temperature at one end of O Block was notably cool. It was explained that the temperature at that particular end was always several degrees colder than at the opposite end. Upon further inquiry, it was explained that this area was not used unless required to do so, due to crowded conditions of O Block, or if an inmate requested a cooler cell. Reportedly some inmates prefer cooler cells and may be provided with extra blankets as long as they do not put them on the floor to use as makeshift rugs. One of the cooler cells, #19 was entered and was very cool in temperature. MCI segregation staff explained that due to problems with the heat vent, this cell and those in the same area are not heated adequately.

The noise level in the block was moderate. During the inspection, one inmate was quite loud on the upper range. Except for this one inmate, all inmates in segregation were calm, with most asleep.

Staff discussed the recreation and shower schedule. Inmates may clean their cells during the shower schedule, which is five times per week. Staff noted that each time an inmate is out of his cell for a shower, the officers shake down the cell to identify and remove any contraband, and the porter assists with cleaning. Inmate porters who assist with the maintenance of O Block consider it a privilege to work in that area.

Reportedly, there are three officers on first and second shifts and two officers on third shift in the segregation unit. A Supervisor is reportedly assigned only on first shift.

Eight recreation cages were observed in the center of O Block, as were outdoor recreation cages with dip bars. One or two inmates at a time are given one-hour recreation periods five times per week. Staff relayed that in the past, bicycles were provided for inmates, but the inmates tore up the equipment and it had not been replaced at the time of the inspection.

#### **M BLOCK-PROTECTIVE CONTROL**

M Block houses inmates who have been placed in Protective Control. M Block has a capacity for up to 74 inmates, but at the time of the inspection, there were 47 inmates in the block. Inmates are housed on four sides, two upper and two lower ranges. Each cell in M Block comes equipped with a bed, toilet, sink, bedside stand, television, writing table, and a set of shelves. The cells are double bunked, but most inmates in the block were living single celled because the block was not filled to capacity.

Within M Block are rooms designated for special purposes, a program room, library, and an art room. Inmates receive specific programming, such as conflict resolution counseling in the program room. For additional programming, inmates go outside to other programming areas. Inmates in M Block are permitted recreation three times a day in the gym, or in the yard at MCI. Also, within the central area of the block was a payphone, in use by an inmate during the inspection.

Inmates in the Service Dog Training Program have single cells within the block. There were five inmates with dogs in the Pilot Dog Training Program on the lower range of M Block. The dogs are provided to MCI via the Humane Society. An inmate participating in the program noted that participating in the dog program meant a great deal to him, and that he never had a dog on the outside. Another inmate was observed with two cockatiels and one parakeet on his shoulder. Staff explained that the birds are part of another community service project to assist birds with special needs.

#### **A-1 DORM- HORIZON INTERFAITH DORM**

The housing arrangement in A-1 dorm is designed to encourage community among inmates through sharing a common space and requiring development and improvement of interpersonal skills and definition of personal character attributes. MCI inmates of various faiths, including Muslim, Jewish and Christian, live together in a dormitory and participate in programs designed to deepen their faith commitment while becoming more knowledgeable and tolerant of other faiths.

The dorm was clean and the room temperature was comfortable. Inmates were calm, content and comfortable in responding to questions. It was relayed that there are 44 inmates assigned to the dorm, which is partitioned off into cubes, with six men per cube, three beds on each of the two sides of the cube. There was ample space between the beds, so that the environment was pleasant and certainly not crowded. Each cube has inmates of similar faiths, who work together on the goal of coming together as a “family.” Each inmate had a small portable television with headphones.

Inmates explained that they must attend the Kairos program before they can apply for acceptance into the Horizon Inter Faith Dorm. An inmate commented that MCI has the best opportunities for programs, and that at MCI all inmates in the dorm have faith, and want to learn about other faiths.

A table was observed set up in the middle of one of the cubes. On the table were snowmen, bears, trees and stars, which had been traced and cut from bright construction paper and decorated with glitter. In the center of each was a white cardboard insert to hold a photograph. Staff and inmates explained that the Christmas decorations were for an upcoming program, “Kairos Outside.” It was described as a retreat for any female loved one chosen by the participating inmate. Staff relayed that the inmates most often pick their mother. The inmate and visitors attend the program from 8 am to 8 pm, both Saturday and Sunday.

### **Recreation Yard**

The visible features of the gym included a scale, scoreboard, full basketball court, weight room, two foosball tables, and a pull-up/chin-up bar. The gym was well ventilated. Within the indoor recreation area there were weight cages and bleachers. During the inspection, many inmates were actively participating in the activities in the gym. Some were playing basketball and others were using exercise equipment. All of the recreation cages positioned along one wall of the gym were in use with inmates using the equipment for workouts. During the inspection, two inmates were reading the Koran while sitting on the bleachers at the end of the gym.

Based on written material provided in follow-up to the inspection on November 23, 2004, in the warmer months, the Recreation Department provides: Handball, Racquetball, Softball, Calisthenics, Track for running, Basketball, and a weight cage indoors. Programs include: ADA and 50 and Over, and an Abs Class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. In the cold weather months, the Recreation Department offers: Indoor Basketball, Racquetball League, Handball League, and Volleyball. There are also monthly tournaments such as bingo, various skill challenges, as well as tournaments for chess, spades, trivial pursuit and other board games. A music program provides guitar classes, sound classes and practice for institutional bands. An art and woodcraft room may be used to make personal projects as well as projects for community service, sales to staff/visitors, and at auctions. Recreation provides sales programming for the Main stockade, MCC and M-Block. M-Block has a mini-yard as well as an internal arts and

crafts room, plus access to dip and pull up bars, and access to the main recreation for two hours per day. Inmates at the Marion Correctional Camp (MCC) have their own yard with putt-putt, bocce ball, softball and basketball. Inside, they have weight and callisthenic areas, as well as a music program. They also have ping-pong, pool tournaments and board games.

### **Laundry/Quartermaster**

A view of the laundry and quartermaster area was included during the inspection. Several inmates were engaged in the work area, which appeared to be quite clean, and not crowded.

### **Library/Law Library**

The library at MCI was quiet with no inmates either reading or serving as library aides at the time of the inspection. Fifteen inmate library aides, who work five days per week during two sessions per day, serve the needs of the institution's library services. Making use of aide's schedules, the library was, at the time of the inspection, open on the weekends.

The library was clean and orderly, consisting of one room with tables, chairs and stacks filling most of the space. The reference section is contained within one wall with another internal wall separating it from other materials. The law library/legal section, containing the Administrative Rules, is at one far end of the central area.

### **OPI**

At the time of the inspection, 75 inmates were assigned to the wood furniture shop. It was reported that no Correctional Officers are assigned to the area; rather OPI Supervisors and/or Instructors are assigned to the shops.

The OPI areas observed were clean and orderly. Except for a few inmates taking a brief break, the inmates were actively involved in their work, whether operating machines making steel hardware for chairs, sanding down wooden chair legs, or tracing, cutting and sewing leather like vinyl to make office chair cushions. Neither the inmates nor staff expressed any concerns. Both staff and inmates seemed to be proud of their area and of their work.

### **Medical Services**

The Medical Services area was observed, and the Health Care Administrator (HCA)/Psychiatric nurse was introduced. Rather than separate examination rooms, separate patient examination tables were located within the medical reception area. The area was clean and very orderly.

Based on the staffing lists, no Pharmacist was reported to have logged hours on the civil or contractual staffing list. However, the monthly report provides data on the volume of prescriptions filled on the month, a total of 4,938 prescriptions. In follow-up communication from ODRC Central Office staff, it was relayed that although the monthly reports were not filled out correctly, MCI does in fact have a half time Pharmacist plus a Pharmacy Technician on contract, and a civil service Pharmacy Technician. It was noted that in Ohio prisons that have pharmacies, only the Pharmacist has access to the key to the pharmacy, except for the Health Care Administrator who may have access in an emergency. It was relayed that Pharmacy Technicians never work by themselves, but are always with a Pharmacist. It was also clarified that some institutions, such as the Toledo Correctional Institution, have no pharmacy. Their prescriptions are filled via mail order and Pharmacy Technicians check the orders on receipt.

### **Mental Health**

System-wide mental health data from September 2005 was reviewed. With a population of 1,719 in September 2005, there were 240 inmates on the "Total Caseload," comprising 14 percent of the total population. The Marion Correctional Institution reported having 84 inmates classified as C1, or "seriously mentally ill." They had 117 inmates classified as C2, or on the Psychiatric Caseload, but not "seriously mentally ill," and 39 inmates classified as C3, or on the general Mental Health Caseload, with a mental health diagnosis and treatment plan. The Psychiatric Caseload is comprised of inmates classified as C1 and C2, thus the total Psychiatric Caseload at MCI in September 2005 was 201. The Total Mental Health Caseload contains all C1, C2 and C3 inmates, making the Total Caseload 240. The Marion Correctional Institution ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in Psychiatric Caseload.

### **Attempted Suicides**

As of December 21, 2005, the Marion Correctional Institution logged one suicide attempt in 2005. This single attempt occurred in November.

### **Use of Force**

The Marion Correctional Institution ranked 13<sup>th</sup> system-wide, with three Use of Force incidents in the month of November 2004. The MCI use of force data from January through October 2005 shows that in all, there were 63 use of force incidents at MCI in the ten-month period, ranging from zero to 17 incidents per month, with an average of six per month. March had the largest number of incidents at 17, followed by September with 11 incidents. Of the 63 Use of Force incidents, only 4 incidents (6.3 percent) were referred to the Use of Force Investigating Committee to determine if the force was authorized and not excessive.

**Contacts/Concerns**

The CIIC database for January 6, 2004 to January 12, 2005 shows that 52 contacts were received from or regarding the Marion Correctional Institution in the period. A total of 1,803 contacts were received system-wide. Contacts regarding MCI comprised 2.9 percent of all contacts. A review was made of the number of contacts received by CIIC system-wide from January 1, 2005 to December 13, 2005. The Marion Correctional Institution ranked 5<sup>th</sup> with 92 contacts, along with the Chillicothe Correctional Institution.

The CIIC database for January 6, 2004 through January 12, 2005 shows that the 1,803 contacts system-wide relayed 5,038 problems, issues or concerns in their communication. The 52 contacts from or regarding Marion Correctional Institution relayed 126 logged concerns, comprising 2.5 percent of the reported concerns

From January 1, 2005 to December 29, 2005, a total of 95 contacts have been received by the CIIC from or regarding the Marion Correctional Institution. Of those contacts, a total of 293 problems, issues or concerns were relayed. The largest category of concerns was Health Care, with 56 reported concerns. The second largest category was the Inmate Grievance Procedure, with 48 concerns. Staff Accountability ranked third in volume, with 43 reported concerns.

**NORTHEAST OHIO CORRECTIONAL CENTER**  
**On-Site Visit Date: April 11, 2006**  
**CIIC Staff**

**Population**

According to staff, at the time of the on-site visit, there was a total population of 1,800, most of which were criminal aliens imprisoned by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Of the 1,800, 500 inmates were on the U.S. Marshal side. Staff relayed that all Bureau of Prisons inmates were serving sentences of less than five years. In addition, all Bureau of Prisons inmates were considered "Low" security. By virtue of their non-native status, the Bureau of Prisons inmates could not reach any security level other than "Low."

Staff relayed that the Marshal side of the prison is run as a jail. The length of stay for a Marshal inmate could be anywhere from a week to a year. There is reportedly no contact between Marshal and Bureau of Prisons inmates.

According to institutional information, as of November 28, 2005, 58% of the NEOCC population was Hispanic; 28%, African American; 13%, White; 1%, Other.

**Staff**

Clearly, NEOCC benefits from its urban location. Staff relayed that the majority of staff are drawn from the Youngstown area. Compared to state prisons, NEOCC has a higher percentage of females, as well as a higher percentage of Hispanics.

The higher percentage of Hispanics is to NEOCC's advantage, given its high Hispanic population. Inmates may feel more comfortable relating to staff from a similar ethnic background. In addition, many of the Bureau of Prisons inmates, as criminal aliens, are not fluent in English. Although it is not guaranteed, Hispanic staff are likely to have greater exposure to Spanish and increased ability to communicate with the Hispanics. Staff relayed that there are 35 bilingual staff.

Staff relayed that communication between inmates and staff is a priority so that inmates can air issues before a formal grievance is filed. Staff are available in the Inmate Dining Hall so that inmates may approach with any questions or concerns.

Staff were very friendly and accommodating, answering every question and offering even more information than requested. NEOCC's Warden, Robert Tapia, has had many years of experience within corrections and CIIC's impression of him was very positive.

**Entry**

The Northeast Ohio Correctional Center has an imposing presence upon entry. Several layers of fences, topped with razor wire, operate as gates separating the facility from the outside. The overall appearance of the facility upon entry was very positive, clean, and well maintained.

**Inmate Housing**

As part of the on-site visit, the CIIC inspected housing units on the Bureau of Prisons side as well as the Marshal side. While on the Marshal housing unit, CIIC staff observed Commissary being handed out. It was relayed that inmates receive funds to purchase goods; additional funds may be received from family members. Bureau of Prisons inmates can receive \$290 per month; Marshal inmates can receive \$75 per week.

The housing unit includes two ranges. Inmates were playing games in the common area in the middle of the housing unit or were watching one of the three televisions mounted to the walls. Although not in use at the time of the visit, isometric workout stations were available for exercise. There were also four payphones.

The housing area and the showers appeared to be clean, although there was a rubber glove and some trash on one of the shower floors. It was relayed that the eight showers are washed once per week. Mattress sanitation also takes place once per week.

All cells are double-bunked and include a footlocker. There is a low amount of stored property for Marshal inmates, as inmates are not allowed to take property with them to their next facility. Marshal inmates wear color-coded jumpsuits; orange jumpsuits for those inmates who are sentenced and awaiting destination and yellow jumpsuits for those inmates who are pre-sentenced or pre-trial.

Marshal inmates interviewed in the housing unit did not have many complaints and on the whole appeared to be positive. Most questions pertained to when they would be transferred or were legal in nature.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons inmate housing is identical to the Marshal detainee housing. Inmates were watching television, several sets of which were mounted on the wall, or playing cards at the tables in the middle of the housing unit. Staff relayed that the institution is currently working on changing the cable package with Time Warner because the signal is not clear and the institution would like to add more Spanish-language channels to serve its largely Spanish-speaking population.

## **Food Services**

Inmates enter the dining hall in a single file line, pick up a tray, and proceed down a serving line. Food is self-service. The dining hall is filled with long cafeteria tables. Inmates have the ability to choose where to sit.

For the meal, inmates were served beef and noodles, rice, beans, corn tortillas, juice, and cornbread. Several inmates voiced complaints about the food during the mealtime; the Warden relayed that he is aware of the food concerns and that measures have been taken to address the issue. During the on-site visit, the meal was the appropriate temperature, was in an abundant quantity as compared to that served at state correctional facilities, and appeared to be nutritious. Requests for religious diets, medical diets, and no-meat alternatives can be accommodated.

In addition to the Inmate Dining Room, CIIC staff also viewed the Staff Dining Room. Staff are served the same food as the inmates; however, the inmates reportedly have a preference for menudo, which is a popular Mexican dish that includes hominy, chili, and tripe. Staff and Marshal inmates reportedly prefer not to eat the menudo.

Staff relayed that food concerns have been heavy at NEOCC due to the ethnic division between the Bureau of Prisons inmates, who are predominately from Mexico or other Latin American countries, and the Marshal inmates, who are predominately US nationals. As there is a larger population of Bureau of Prisons inmates, the facility has reportedly attempted to concede more to their wishes and the latest-approved menu is more Mexican/Hispanic-friendly. However, some dishes, such as menudo, reportedly do not translate well across cultures. Although inmates voiced complaints about the food, the portions were abundant (at least in comparison with several ODRC facilities) and the food was hot.

In addition to the Dining Rooms, the CIIC on-site visit also included observation of the kitchen area. There are three dry storage areas, in which food can reportedly last up to two weeks. Boxes stacked against the wall cannot be any higher than six inches from the ceiling, due to the potential fire hazard. In order to ensure enforcement, staff have used the method of marking the six inches with blue tape as a marker, which seems to be very useful and effective.

At the time, the inmates were preparing the dinner. All inmates were wearing gloves and hairnets and several also wore masks. Inmates place the food on the tray and send them through the serving line. The inmates receiving the food cannot see the inmate workers who place the food on the tray from the kitchen, nor do the workers know which inmate will receive which tray. This seems to be a positive security measure.

## **Segregation**

CIIC staff observed both the Marshal and the Bureau of Prisons Segregation Units. According to staff, at the time of the CIIC on-site visit, there were 41 total inmates housed in the Bureau of Prisons section of Segregation. Of the 41 inmates, 23 inmates (56.1 percent) were in Disciplinary Control and 18 inmates (43.9 percent) were in Protective Control. Staff relayed that the Segregation Unit has a maximum capacity of 128 inmates.

Overall, the Segregation area was very clean, with no causes for concern readily apparent. The entire area was mostly quiet and inmates were conversational. Inmates are allowed a very limited amount of personal property. Cells include two bunks, with one mattress. Inmates were single-celled at the time of the on-site visit. The cells also include porcelain sinks and commodes, as the unit was reportedly not originally built as a Segregation Unit.

According to staff, \$70,000 was recently spent on the showers in Segregation. The showers were installed in February 2006. There are five showers in each unit, all of which are metal, including one handicapped shower. According to staff, there is a Segregation review by the Warden, Managers, Lieutenant, and other staff on a weekly basis. Staff also relayed that rounds are made weekly by the various department heads in order to ensure that inmate concerns are addressed and that medical staff visit every shift.

The Marshal Segregation Unit was very similar to the Bureau of Prisons unit. Staff relayed that at the time of the on-site visit, there were 20 inmates housed in the Marshal Segregation Unit. These inmates are reportedly "high custody" or are in Segregation for disciplinary reasons. Each cell has two bunks with one mattress, as the inmates are single-celled in this unit as well. Similar to the Bureau of Prisons unit, bathroom facilities are steel. Everything appeared very clean and waxed. There was not a lot of noise and on the whole, the unit appeared very controlled.

## **Programs**

The following information was provided by the institution in the Inmate Handbook for Bureau of Prisons inmates regarding the programming provided at the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center:

- General Education Diploma (GED)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Continuing Education
- Vocational Training
- Life Skills/Parenting (LS/P)
- Work Program

## **Education Department**

CIIC staff attended an English as a Second Language (ESL) I class. There were approximately 22-23 students. The inmates were clearly enthusiastic about the class and were actively engaged in the class activities. Several inmates were assisting others in learning the material.

The Education Department was observed. CIIC staff were met by the Principal. He was extremely enthusiastic about the Education program available at NEOCC and relayed that he had pushed to be part of the Ohio Central School System. He further relayed that all teachers are fully certified. According to staff, the following classes are offered: ESL 1, ESL 2, Pre-GED and, finally, the GED class. Inmates may proceed from one to the next as needed before attaining their GED. According to staff, there are 12 teachers in the Education program, with an average of 20 inmates in each class. In addition, staff relayed that there are 60 inmate tutors.

In the same area is the Library, which is quite large and was filled with inmates actively pursuing reading. There appeared to be a large selection of books, many tables, computers, etc. Regarding the computers in the Library, staff relayed that all computers are linked to an internal system. CIIC staff also observed a computer room, which included 20 student computers, all of which were new, in addition to a teacher computer. According to staff, there is a large waiting list for access to the computer class. Basic computer skills are taught, such as typing and word processing. Staff relayed that the WestLaw system is accessible through the computers.

According to staff, \$2,000 worth of Spanish books are being ordered to better serve the Spanish-speaking population.

CIIC staff also observed several vocational programs, including Masonry, Electrician, and Carpentry. Staff relayed that in the Masonry class, inmates build and then tear down the projects when they are done. The mortar is then re-used, a cost-savings for the program. Similarly, the Carpentry class also re-uses its materials. The Electrician program teaches basic electrical/residential house wiring, in addition to electrical related math, language, and class work. The class is six months long and reportedly provides certification for the students.

There are an increasing number of inmates served each month in the Education Department. This is certainly a positive move on the part of the institution. It is hoped that inmates will continue to be encouraged to take part in programs that will not only increase their work and knowledge skills, but most likely also reduces idleness and, thus, inmate conflict. Engaging the inmates in group activities also would seem to reduce inmate tension.

Most impressive at NEOCC was the Education Department. The Principal was clearly devoted to serving the educational needs of the BOP inmates at NEOCC. He was very

enthusiastic and was obviously proud of the classes at NEOCC. Inmates were absorbed in learning and the Library was well used.

### **Recovery/Substance Abuse Services**

Unfortunately, according to statistical data submitted by NEOCC to CIIC, reportedly zero inmates take part in the Substance Abuse Program. It is not known whether this is due to inmate disinterest or program unavailability. Given that the Substance Abuse Program is outlined in the inmate handbook as a definite possibility for inmates at NEOCC, it is hoped that inmates could be encouraged to participate.

### **Mental Health Services**

The Mental Health services area was observed. According to Mental Health staff, approximately 123 inmates are on the caseload, meaning those inmates who are taking psychotropic medication or are on chronic care. In addition, staff relayed that they see approximately 100 in a month on referral, not counting intake. In addition, the Psychiatrist reportedly sees 45-50 inmates in a month. There is no co-payment charged for services rendered.

Staff relayed that, over the past year, there have been no suicide attempts, only threats. The last suicide took place on May 1, 2005. In comparison, there were a reported 140 reported suicide attempts in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections system, or an average of 3.75 per correctional facility.

Staff relayed that at the time of the on-site visit, there was no group programming, due to insufficient staff. Staff are required to undergo Pre-Service Education, as well as annual Education. Reportedly, staff underwent suicide training in the previous month. Staff relay that there is no maximum period for suicide watch, but if an inmate continues to report a desire to commit suicide, other problems may be in play and the inmate may be transferred to a facility with more Mental Health Services staff that can better serve the inmate's mental health needs.

### **Medical Services**

The Medical Services area was observed, including the X-ray room, the Dental Services area, and the medical records room. The entire Medical Services area was very clean with shiny, waxed floors and new paint. All staff were friendly and professional.

According to staff, there are bilingual staff available for inmates, including a full time intake nurse and an LPN, in addition to the corrections staff. In addition, staff relayed that St. Elizabeth Hospital, which is used for medical emergencies, has bilingual staff members.

CIIC staff also viewed the medical observation area, including a Tuberculosis isolation room with reverse airflow monitoring. Staff relayed that the facility has a contract with a

biohazard waste company. The beds in these areas have four-point restraint capability and the cell has a hand porthole to facilitate cuffing.

According to staff, the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center's Medical Services area scored 100% on their most recent audit.

### **Religious Services**

The facility's Chapel was observed. The Chapel included a mural of flowers and trees on the front wall and a painting of mountains on the back wall. According to the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Handbook, a wide range of religious programs is offered. The staff Chaplain is available, as well as contract and volunteer representatives of various faiths. Special religious diets, holiday observances, and other worship activities are coordinated through the Chaplain's office. Information and schedules are posted on the inmate bulletin boards or the inmates may contact the Chaplain's office for additional information. The Chaplain is the designated staff member for notification of family illness/death. The Chaplain is available for inmate counseling and crisis intervention.

Inmates must sign up for Religious Services one month in advance. Inmates have ten minutes to report to the religious services for which they are scheduled after being released from the unit. Failure to attend services that were requested will be reprimanded.

The institution also permits the observance of special religious holidays as well as marriages, consistent with security regulations.

### **Recreation Program**

CIIC staff observed the Bureau of Prisons Recreation yard. The yard was filled with inmates, most who were engaged in an activity rather than standing around. Inmates were playing basketball on the various court areas or softball on the big field provided for that activity. Staff relayed that inmates also play soccer on the field, which is a very popular sport in Central and South American countries. In addition, many inmates were walking and jogging around the softball field.

Staff relayed that for security reasons only two units can be at Recreation at one time, but that the units can be out for multiple hours each day. Staff relayed that in general, inmates can be outside at any time of the day; there are no set recreation hours. Staff further relayed that they try to provide as much outside recreation time as possible, given security and other constraints.

In addition to the outside recreation, Northeast Ohio Correctional Center also has a large gymnasium to serve inmates' Recreation needs. The gymnasium includes 12-13 pull-up stations, a ping-pong table, and a full court basketball court with four side hoops. There were also several treadmills, Stairmaster, and cycling machines. At the time of the on-site visit, inmates were playing handball on the court or were jumping rope.

The gymnasium also has a band room off the side of the gym to allow inmates to practice instruments. At the time of the on-site visit, inmates were involved in a practice.

U.S. Marshal inmates have a smaller Recreation yard on the Marshal side of the facility. Staff also relayed that there are plans to construct a second Recreation yard for the Bureau of Prisons inmates that will not include a gymnasium.

The Recreation area at NEOCC for Bureau of Prisons inmates was regarded as positive. According to staff, the inmates receive many hours of outside Recreation time, which enhances inmate attitude and prevents tension. With the reported addition of another Recreation space, it is hoped that even more time may be spent in Recreation for inmates so as to reduce idleness.

### **Assaults**

The data shows a relatively high number of inmate on inmate assaults. It is not known from the data whether these assaults are more between Marshal inmates, Bureau of Prisons inmates, or whether the number is evenly balanced. More importantly, the severity of the assaults is unknown. It may be that NEOCC includes non-serious assaults in the above number.

### **Use of Force**

"Use of Force" is a broad term that generally signifies some type of force ranging from a push to lethal force used by a staff member against an inmate. If an inmate uses force against a staff member, it would be classified as an "assault." Use of Force is an ongoing concern within the prison community. All cases of Use of Force should be evaluated to determine whether the amount of force used was appropriate to the situation, and if it was excessive. In comparison to ODRC facilities, this number of reported Use of Force incidents is relatively low.

### **Grievance Procedure**

In comparison to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction facilities, there are an extremely low number of grievances for this institution. However, a low number of grievances do not necessarily correlate to inmate satisfaction. If inmates do not believe that the grievance procedure is effective, they will not use it. It is in both the inmates' and the institution's best interests to have an effective grievance system, as this allows inmates to air complaints rather than allowing them to fester and it allows staff to be on top of critical issues.

Although inmates allege that grievances are lost or not answered, NEOCC staff relayed during the on-site visit that measures have been taken to ensure inmate access to staff. In particular, during the meal times, staff congregate in the main area so that inmates may approach them to raise any particular issues of concern. Given the relatively frequent number of allegations that grievances are lost, it is hoped that NEOCC staff will consider

evaluating the grievance procedure to determine methods of ensuring that every inmate grievance is reviewed and answered. As noted above, a low number of grievances does not necessarily correlate to inmate satisfaction and may even be taken as a sign of lack of inmates' faith in the system.

Attention to the grievance procedure is recommended to ensure that all problems and concerns are investigated and addressed. Use of triplicate carbon informal complaint forms such as is used by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction would ensure that complaints are not lost, but documented, tracked and answered, with staff accountability also ensured.

### **Contacts**

The CIIC Database for June 2005 through May 2006 shows that 61 contacts were received by CIIC from or in regard to inmates at the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center. In that same time period, the CIIC Database shows that a total of 1,992 contacts were received system-wide (including juvenile correctional facilities). Thus, contacts from NEOCC composed only 3.1% of the total contacts received for this time period.

Each contact may contain several concerns related to different subject areas. According to the CIIC Database, a total of 72 contacts were received from or regarding NEOCC since the origination of the database. These 72 contacts relayed a total of 358 concerns. The most cited area of concern was in Health Care, with 82 total logged concerns. Medical concerns were also discussed by inmates during the on-site visit.

The second most cited area of concern pertained to Staff Accountability. This category tends to be broad, but generally pertains to staff not acting in accord with their job duties and responsibilities. The third most cited area of concern pertained to Legal Services.

### **Conclusion**

Although the CIIC on-site visit was positive, the inmates' letters to the CIIC imply that there may be two faces to the issue. While medical facilities and services appeared to be very clean and responding appropriately to inmate needs, it is interesting that Health Care should comprise such a large number of the cited concerns to CIIC. In addition, although inmates did not report inmate tension or fears, the reported number of inmate on inmate assaults appears to be high for a single institution, although various factors could contribute to the high number.

Northeast Ohio Correctional Center's largest problem appears to be performing the balancing act between serving the needs of the Bureau of Prisons inmates and the U.S. Marshal detainees. In reviewing the contacts to CIIC, it appears that the majority pertains to U.S. Marshal detainee concerns. It is understandable that the facility provides more services to the Bureau of Prisons inmates, as they are serving sentences of several months to several years versus the U.S. Marshal inmates who are in transit to their parent institution to serve the majority of their time. Unfortunately, standards for jails are much

lower than standards for prisons. Despite the serious inmate concerns listed above, NEOCC may well be operating within the standards established for jails.

Hopefully, however, NEOCC staff will consider the needs of U.S. Marshal inmates, regardless of the minimum standards, with an open mind. Staff relayed that although a U.S. Marshal inmate's time at NEOCC should be short, they knew of at least one U.S. Marshal inmate who had been there for almost a year. Thus, staff should bear in mind that a U.S. Marshal inmate could be there for a longer duration than expected.

**NORTHEAST PRE-RELEASE CENTER**  
**Inspection Date: March 31, 2006**  
**CIIC Member: Representative Michael DeBose**  
**CIIC Staff**

### **Summary**

The inspection of the Northeast Pre Release Center went very well and the results were extremely positive. The Warden and the staff of the Northeast Pre Release Center were most accommodating. The inmate/staff interaction was viewed as very positive, one of the best compared with other Ohio prisons. The new practice put in place by the Warden on requiring staff members to be available during meal time in the inmate dining hall is viewed as excellent. It is not only beneficial in building a strong inmate/staff rapport, but also maximizes staff availability to listen and address inmate concerns.

The inmate morale, as well as the staff morale seemed to be very high. From all indications, the staff and inmates seem to feel safe and secure. However, the absence of sexual abuse posters in contrast to what was observed at the Ohio Reformatory for Women was noted. Staff relayed assurance that the posters had been up in the facility, and they would be re-posted.

The facility itself was very clean, and nearly all inmates were involved in some sort of activity. However, there is a lack of program space. Some rooms have been turned into offices. There is no gymnasium for recreation and no official chapel. There is a clear need for "multi-purpose" rooms.

### **Staff**

According to the Northeast Pre Release Center ACA Re-accreditation Audit Report of May 2005, the total number of institution staff was 175. Of that number, 98 were female, 77 were male; 90 were Caucasian, 79 were African American, and six were categorized as "Other". The total number of security staff was 101. Of this number, 42 were male, 41 were female; 48 were Caucasian, 47 were African American, and six were categorized as "Other". More recent numbers reflect a decrease in the number of total staff, but an increase in security staff at the Northeast Pre Release Center. As of May 19, 2006, the staff totaled 170, including 101 security staff.

Staff morale appeared to be very high at the time of the inspection. It was reported that an advantage of being in a metropolitan area is the large potential for staff recruitment, and ability to attract high quality staff. It was relayed however, that the overtime budget of the institution was high. Due to some turnover with staff members, Correctional Officers were working double shifts. One female Officer, who was working a double shift on inspection day, commented that she was pleased about the overtime, as it was extra money. A male Correctional Officer similarly commented that he was fine with working two shifts, but was very tired. All staff interaction observed during the inspection was positive.

**Crowding**

Based on the crowding rate or population compared to capacity, the Northeast Pre-Release Center is one of nine Ohio prisons operating below the population capacity, with a total of 640 beds, and only 562 inmates housed. Two Ohio prisons were operating at over 200% of the population capacity, including the Lorain Correctional Institution and the Correctional Reception Center.

**Unique Program:** Animal Protective League (APL)

NEPRC provided information on their written policy and procedures pertaining to the pet program effective September 1, 2005. Inmates at other prisons have urged that the DRC or its institutions provide a written policy on the dog programs, which they believe will promote consistency and fairness. News media reports have quoted DRC central office officials as reporting that no sex offenders may participate in such programs, yet practices to the contrary have been found in the institutions. This demonstrates a need for written DRC policy. The facility with the most complaints about the dog program reported that it has no written policy, and clearly no DRC policy exists. With that, the CIIC was most pleased to find that NEPRC not only has a written policy, but a detailed and impressive one. Extensive information from their policy was included in the full inspection report so that portions may be considered for incorporation into a department-wide policy.

**Entry**

The visitors' processing area was clean and orderly. Staff were courteous, efficient and organized. The area was quiet and relaxed. Staff were thorough and professional.

**Housing Units**

Grounds were clean and well landscaped. Inmates moved across the compound in an orderly fashion. Inmates were calm, relaxed and orderly. Noise levels were low. Air circulation and temperature were good. The housing units were clean, and provided adequate lighting for reading. The dayroom areas were clean. All toilets and showerheads were in working order. Bathroom facilities were clean, yet staining was observed in some of the showers.

**UNIT E**

The Education Department along with the school administrator's office is located in Unit E, as well as several classrooms and the Labor Relations Office. Staff expressed a need for a school building and more program space. The area had all new exercise equipment, including an exercise bike. A second level bedroom in Unit E was observed. The inmates in the room noted that their room was "one of the cleanest." However, all of the rooms observed were neat and clean.

An electronic monitor tracking device box was outside of the rooms, which are reportedly funded by the inmate on inmate sexual assault fund (Prison Rape Elimination Act). It was relayed that the devices allow the institution to know which inmates are together, and when they are together. It also alerts staff to inmates who get too close to the perimeter fence. According to staff, the devices were initially used on a trial basis on inmates' wrists on a small scale. The inmates did not like the devices on their wrists, so the devices will be placed on their ankles.

#### **UNIT F**

The rooms in Unit F were phenomenally clean, as well as the showers. Inmates relayed that the thin, worn mattresses are of concern to them, as well as the showers. A few showers were stained possibly from the water, but they were definitely clean.

#### **UNIT G**

The showers in Unit G were definitely clean, but were water stained. Inmates had referred to the stains as mold, even writing this office as recently as May 16, 2006 relaying:

Since the day you guys came to NEPRC nothing we complained about has been changed. We still got mold in the shower, old worn mattresses...

The Institutional Inspector noted that no grievances regarding mold in the showers had been filed at the institution, as well as, none filed regarding concerns about worn mattresses. The showers were closely observed, even inspected by hand, and no evidence of actual mold was discovered. The stains in the shower were classified as "water discoloration" in the American Correctional Association (ACA) audit. The Warden relayed that prior to the inspection, the discoloration was tested, and it was found not to be mold, but a build-up of dirt and grime due to old airflow, with no ventilation. A crew from Construction, Activation and Maintenance created a prototype design to cut the wall out. However, the project would cost \$100,000 per unit. A chemical clean was suggested by the DRC, including a power wash and epoxy on the walls that can be cleaned, not just painted over. The institution planned to try one wing to determine the results.

#### **Visiting Room: Ohio Reads Reading Program**

The visiting room was clean and the atmosphere was relaxed. The visiting room had a "Kids Corner" where children could play during visits. The area was beautiful, and included a mural that had been air brushed on the walls by an inmate. It was obvious that the inmate who painted the area had taken great pride in creating the scenes, and the staff and inmate worker seemed very proud of the area as well. The colors of the room were bright and vibrant and reportedly the Warden picked out the carpet, which was an excellent addition to the pleasant environment.

This was clearly the most impressive "corner" of the facility, an area that deserves to be a great source of pride. The area could not have been any more inviting to a child. It was

obvious that the inmate worker assigned to the area enjoyed and appreciated her assignment. Children who visit the Northeast Pre Release Center reading room are given an Ohio Reads Certificate to remember the experience.

### **Commissary**

The commissary was observed. Outside the commissary area is a sign that reads, "Quiet-No talking in line." Based on complaints at some other institutions regarding the problems and chaos that can occur in noisy commissary lines, including impairing necessary communication with commissary staff, it was good to see such a rule that works for the benefit of all. The commissary was impressively large, clean and well stocked.

### **Food Services**

The inmate dining room was light, clean and bright with large windows. The serving line proceeded in an orderly fashion. The atmosphere was relaxed and cordial. The area was calm, relaxed and orderly. The condition of the floors, walls and ceiling was observed as good.

The Warden relayed a new practice in which staff (even unit staff) come to the chow hall during mealtime from all over the institution, so that if inmates have a problem, they can talk to them about it during the meal. This is regarded as an excellent practice that appeared to be working extremely well at the facility. Inmates freely approached various staff to communicate questions or problems, and they freely approached the CIIC as well. The effort to maximize inmate access to unit staff is applauded. A similar practice was observed in the privately owned and operated Northeast Ohio Correctional Center, which houses federal prisoners. Again, it appeared to be extremely effective as an added means of communication with staff regarding any issue or concern that needed to be addressed.

The kitchen was clean and orderly. Equipment was in adequate condition. Handling and preparation of the food was observed as sanitary and supervised. Multiple staff were assigned for supervision. All inmate workers were wearing hats/hairnets and gloves, per sanitary regulations. The inmates were busy cleaning and preparing meatloaf for the meal the next day. The inmate workers seemed extremely satisfied with their job. The atmosphere and interaction was positive and pleasant. The condition of floors, walls, ceiling and cold storage equipment appeared to be good. The area was clean, orderly and seemed to be well ventilated.

### **Medical Services**

Medical Services and the Medical Records/Healthcare Administrator's Office were observed. The atmosphere was light and the staff members were pleasant, friendly, and seemed content. The floor under the dental equipment consisted of old tile that appeared worn, and in need of cleaning.

Physician appointments for Doctor's Sick Call consisted of 326 scheduled visits, with 140 "no shows," and 42 reported emergent add on appointments. It is suggested that a determination be made of the reasons for the large number of no shows, and that action be taken to reduce the volume.

### **Attempted Suicides**

At the time of the inspection of the Correctional Reception Center, which occurred on February 26, 2006, the horizontal barred windows were being outfitted with a steel wire to cover the bars to prevent any future suicide attempts by hanging. The windows at the Northeast Pre- Release Center consist of the same horizontal bars.

While suicides have not been a prevalent issue at the Northeast Pre Release Center, the exposed bars are a concern. The same exposed bars are present at the Lorain Correctional Institution. It is hoped that the screening project underway at CRC will be seriously considered at all other facilities with such horizontal barred windows as a justifiable suicide prevention effort.

### **Sexual Assault Information**

A concern regarding a lack of sexual assault posters in the institution was brought to the attention of the Institutional Inspector. It was relayed that in the weekly orientation conducted, sexual assault in prison is discussed, and information is also provided in the NEPRC Inmate Handbook, as well as in brochures. The NEPRC Handbook definitely contains detailed information on the subject, which should be commended. More efforts should be made to encourage inmates to report any sexual assault by not only displaying informational posters throughout the facility, but also using stronger language than "may" and "should" in urging them to contact staff. In follow-up communication on the Tipster Hotline referenced above, NEPRC staff clarified that an inmate can call directly on their own, and/or their family can call either number to relay any such reports. The posting of the hotline number in every housing unit with urgings to report sexual assault is recommended.

### **Grievance Procedure**

The Institutional Inspector was introduced. The Inspector visits all units once per week. She noted that, if she is approached about problems, she privately speaks with the inmate in her office. The Inspector noted that the women like to talk, and the existing "open door" policy is clear. She went on to further comment that the women talk about their families, mothers, children, concerns about leaving, etc. It was significant and positive that the Inspector relayed that she never turns an inmate away, even if the issues have nothing to do with grievable matters.

**Investigations -Other**

There has been a relative upswing in the number of initiated investigations at Northeast Pre-Release Center, especially regarding "Other" investigations. It is possible that the higher numbers are indicative of greater diligence on the part of the Investigator to take serious action in light of allegations. In particular, the increasing number of assault investigations is a positive move.

**Searches, Seizures and Shakedowns**

The Northeast Pre-Release Center's Investigator has conducted little, if any searches for drug and alcohol confiscation purposes. However, little, if any drugs were found in the institution. It is possible that no contraband in the form of drugs and alcohol was confiscated due to the little, if any number of searches and shakedowns.

**OHIO REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN**  
**Inspection Report Date: August 12, 2005**  
**CIIC Members: Representatives Michael DeBose and Robert Latta**  
**CIIC Staff**

### **Entry/Exit Building and Grounds**

The entry building was clean and orderly. The three female Correctional Officers were professional, courteous and efficient in screening and processing the CIIC and others for entry. The grounds were clean and well-landscaped, simple but well maintained, with no sign of debris. Six greyhound dogs were in the entry building with civilian caretakers, presumably as part of the community service dog programs.

Inmate movement about the yard was orderly, yet relaxed. There was no idleness observed on the grounds. Inmates were on their way to or from a specific area, while some were caring for their dogs in the community service project. Interaction with inmates, between inmates, and between inmates and staff was respectful. Signs of good communication skills, and responsiveness of staff to inmates were evident.

### **Cost**

Compared to the other Ohio prisons, the Ohio Reformatory for Women ranks relatively low in the daily and annual cost per inmate, with \$19,770.69 per inmate per year, or \$54.17 per inmate per day. Only 11 Ohio prisons have a lower cost per inmate, ranging from \$13,501.23 per inmate per year, or \$36.99 per inmate per day at the Richland Correctional Institution, to \$19,226.43 per inmate per year, or \$52.68 per inmate per day at the Southeastern Correctional Institution.

### **Expansion of Beds for Females**

While the total inmate population decreased by 820 and the number of men decreased by 1,071, the number of women increased by 251. On July 9, 2004, ODRC conducted a problem analysis based on the fact that their three female prisons were operating at an average crowding rate of 124.6%, which was beyond the ODRC total average crowding rate of 123.4%. Reportedly, while the overall ODRC inmate population was expected to increase by 14% over the next eight years, the female inmate growth rate was projected to increase by 28%.

Due to the complexity of the female population needs, ODRC proposed to increase the number of female beds. In the subsequent months in 2004, the Trumbull Correctional Camp was converted into a female prison camp. Since more than 60% of the female inmate population is from Cuyahoga County and surrounding counties, Trumbull Correctional Camp was chosen based on geographic location, physical structure, and increased reentry opportunities for the female offenders. The goal was to create 300

female beds. As of May 17, 2005, the facility had a population of 275 women, and their maximum bed capacity is now reported to be 300.

### **Admissions**

The on-site visit included observation of the Admissions Building. CIIC staff observed new inmates being admitted to ORW. The Admissions Building is an open dorm setting that includes bunk beds, an open lobby area with a television, and a bathroom and shower room. At the time of the on-site visit, new arrivals were in the TV area getting ready to watch a video on the rules and regulations of the institution. According to ORW staff, new inmates are then paired with inmate “guides” who escort them and help them become more familiar with the institution. It was noted that the guides are carefully screened and have excellent conduct records. The concept is regarded as a very positive one, which merits consideration for adoption at other institutions, including the prisons for men. It could be particularly beneficial at the male reception centers for those entering prison for the first time.

### **Food Services**

The CIIC observed the lunch meal being served in the large dining hall. The lunch meal consisted of Shepard’s Pie, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, sliced bread and apple crisp. The CIIC staff ate the identical lunch meal in the small inmate dining hall. Food Service Workers, who already had lunch, commented that the meal was “really good.” According to the comments, Food Service Workers assigned to the Meridian Building “like it better than the main dining room.”

CIIC observed the dining hall located in the Meridian Building, which has a smaller dining area, as well as the larger dining hall, which serves the General Population. All Food Services areas, including dining rooms and kitchens, were very clean. Inmate servers wore hairnets and gloves in accordance with proper sanitary standards. ORW staff noted that they would have a new medical and food services building scheduled to be operational in the fall of 2004.

The serving line is unique in that they use “blind serving.” That is, a partition with tempered glass is located along the serving line so that inmate Food Service Workers cannot see whose tray is being prepared. Therefore, tampering or favoritism in dishing out the food is reportedly prevented. Close monitoring and supervision of inmate Food Service Workers by Food Services Staff remains a necessary means to prevent such problems, for even with “blind serving,” there are other ways in which inmates may communicate. Still, the potential benefits of “blind serving” in Food Services could be considered as a possible means to assist in the development of improvements at other prisons who experience problems in this regard.

Inmates walked into the dining area in single file. On entering the dining hall, each inmate is supposed to swipe a plastic identification card into a machine. However, on the day of the inspection, the electronic machine was out of order.

During the time in the lunchroom, some inmates relayed that the meals contain “too much starch,” and suggested that more meat and vegetables should be substituted for starch foods. No one complained of the quantity or quality of the food.

### **Security Levels**

ORW is equipped to serve all security levels, including women sentenced to death. However, there are no inmates classified as Level 5 (formerly known as Super Max or High Max). ORW staff relayed that inmates are separated by classification level.

At the time of the inspection, there was one ORW inmate who faced the death penalty. Technically, Death Row is its own “classification.” In follow-up communication to seek information on the breakdown of security level within the inmate population, ORW staff relayed that the ORW population in March 2005 was 1,810.

### **Staff**

At all times during the inspection, as well as on both on-site visits, ORW staff were courteous and professional, not only to the CIIC staff and Members, but also in their interaction with inmates and other ORW staff.

According to the website as of March 30, 2005, the number of staff at ORW totaled 482, including 246 security staff, which computes to an inmate to officer ratio of 7.35:1. Compared to staffing on March 8, 2004, the total number of employees increased by 45, from the 437 staff total reported on their website on March 8, 2004.

However, as of March 30, 2005, the number of security staff decreased by 19 compared with March 2004. On March 8, 2004, ORW had 265 security staff, compared to the 246 security staff as of March 30, 2005. On the day of the inspection, some staff expressed concerns regarding staff shortages. It was relayed that there were 47 vacancies for Correctional Officers, with a total of 265 Officers on staff

ORW staff also relayed having a shortage of Nurses. At the time of the inspection, nine vacant nursing positions for mental and medical health were being filled with Contract Nurses.

It was also noted that ORW had no Investigator at the time, but two Investigator positions were approved and would be filled as soon as possible. ORW staff relayed that they do have a Security Threat Group (STG) Coordinator. In follow-up communication on May 17, 2005, the ORW Investigator relayed that he has been in the position for four weeks, and that a second Investigator position will be filled. In addition, a Lieutenant may also be assigned to assist the Investigators if needed. In further follow-up communication with ORW administrative staff on May 19, 2005, it was relayed that the Investigator position has not been left vacant during the interim.

## **Programs**

An abundance of meaningful programs are available at ORW. From a historical perspective, the expansion of programs is one of the most positive findings, not only in regard to vocational programs but also in the array and type of treatment programs developed. The facility is highly organized by functional units, dominated by programs and housing designed to meet the needs of a complex and diverse population. Educational and vocational programs, including apprenticeships and industries, are impressive.

On the day of the inspection, CIIC staff observed Ohio Penal Industries shops. All areas were found to be clean, orderly, and productive. Inmates are provided with an opportunity to learn a new skill and to be proud of their products. The atmosphere was pleasant and free of any sign of tension.

The CIIC attended a group session of the Therapeutic Community, known as "Tapestry", which is a substance abuse/recovery services program. (See below)

### **ACHIEVING BABY CARE SUCCESS (ABC'S) NURSERY**

The Nursery Program is not only unique, but one of the many extremely positive observations made at ORW. ORW staff receive formal training from Child Development Specialists at Children's Hospital including domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and effective problem solving. Inmate mothers receive relevant training and group classes, as well as positive tools from Early Start Specialists. Program staff interact with and involve extended family members in treatment planning and family councils.

The Meridian Building that houses the Nursery, Computer Lab, Day Care Center, Family Center, Arts and Crafts Area, Assisted Living Unit, and Boot Camp, was impressively clean. The atmosphere and interaction between staff, inmates and the CIIC were equally impressive.

As of March 30, 2005, there were seven babies in the nursery. On the day of the inspection, there were six babies and six mothers, plus two pregnant women in the Nursery. The babies ranged from one month old to ten months of age. A Case Manager is assigned to work with those in the Nursery. Staff relayed that they have had 55 residents since the Nursery opened in June 2001. One of the rooms contained an inmate and her eight-week old baby. There were two beds and two cribs in the room. A clothing room and kitchen were also observed. The playroom contained rocking chairs and books. A wall hanging of an apple tree, made by women in the Assisted Living Unit, included an apple for each of the babies who have been in the Nursery.

A litany of additional programs is available for other inmate mothers and their children. The Woman-to-Woman Program matching citizens with inmates, and the Youthful Offender Programs also deserve positive acknowledgement.

## **TAPESTRY THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

According to written information provided by ORW staff on the Tapestry TC program, due to the increasing number of incarcerated women, and the high incidence of alcohol and drug abuse among those women, ODRC, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), and CompDrug Corporation, came together to address these issues and their impact on recidivism. Tapestry Therapeutic Community is the result of that effort. The program is a highly structured residential treatment program with the mission to assist addicted inmates to change the direction of their lives while in prison.

The Tapestry Therapeutic Community Program was as impressive as the Nursery. The inmate who conducted the walk-through of their building appeared to be genuinely committed to the program and served as an excellent representative of the participants. Although the building is old, and was in need of repair, the rooms were clean and orderly, and residents appeared to take pride in their living and program space. In spite of the age and condition of the building, staff and inmates appeared to be doing their part to make the housing area the best that it can be. There were no complaints or concerns expressed regarding maintenance needs. Residents were totally immersed in the program and unaffected by the negative impact of age and condition of the building. They have created a pleasant living environment.

In informal discussions with the inmates, nothing but praise and positive comments regarding the program were expressed. Some credited the program with saving their life. One security staff person relayed that the TC program has made him a better person, just being around the program and participants. One resident provided testimony during a Seminar attended by the CIIC. The inmates' comments to her after her testimony were respectful, meaningful, purposeful, and indicative of a caring "family" relationship of Tapestry participants.

The TC Talent Show attended during an on-site visit by CIIC staff was hilarious, extremely creative, and provided positive messages to the inmates in the audience. The participants' creativity, talent, sincerity in commitment to recovery, teamwork and effort, were evident. The atmosphere throughout was positive, upbeat, and motivational. One security staff person in the unit relayed that the TC Program has changed him for the better as a person, just by being around the TC program and participants.

Beyond the Tapestry TC Program, ORW has an impressive array of additional Substance Abuse Programs.

### **Camp Meridian Boot Camp**

Camp Meridian is in the Meridian Building, the same building as the Nursery. On the day of the inspection, 52 women were in the program. According to ORW staff, there were 38 women on the waiting list for Camp Meridian.

Successful applicants must have a sentence of no more than five years, and must meet additional eligibility criteria specified for the Intensive Program Prisons (IPP) by Statute and Administrative Rule. A Lieutenant provides an orientation to those in admissions, and processes IPP applications for Camp Meridian.

A Captain escorted the CIIC through the Camp Meridian dormitory during Count Time. Inmates were standing at attention by their bed in military stance. The heels and toes of the boots appeared to be “spit shined.” The beds were made with perfect hospital folds and all items were in their proper places. The Boot Camp was very clean, organized and quiet. The Camp Meridian Program Handbook details the top view and side view of the bed, noting the proper location for the laundry bag, towel, washcloth, extra folded blanket, and footwear. The top drawer and bottom drawer layout are detailed as well, noting the exact placement of specific items and manner of placement, such as a blouse in a six-inch roll, and a towel in an eight-inch roll.

During the inspection, ORW staff relayed that there is a 65% completion rate, and that the initial two-week period is crucial. Reportedly, if an inmate “quits”, it occurs in the first two weeks. However, in February 2005, the DRC submitted and received approval for amendments to Administrative Rule 5120-11-03 on the Intensive Program Prisons (IPP). According to section (J) of the Rule, inmates are no longer permitted to voluntarily withdraw within the first 21 days. This was an expressed concern by CIIC staff as it relates to “boot camp” IPPs. However, DRC Central Office Legal Services Staff indicated in February 2005 that the boot camp aspects of the IPP are no longer present. That does not appear to be the case in regard to Camp Meridian at ORW.

A review of the Camp Meridian Program Handbook provided on site during the ORW inspection, verifies that in fact the military boot camp elements of Camp Meridian remain. In follow-up communication on May 19, 2005, ORW staff relayed that the same Handbook is still being used at Camp Meridian. It was also noted that ORW has added an Educational IPP program as well. It is operated along with the Boot Camp IPP, but is specifically for those without a GED High School Equivalency. The program is also for 90 days and includes the same eligibility criteria. Those in the Education IPP wear different uniforms, but use the same building and wing as the Boot Camp IPP.

ORW staff relayed that the 21-day prohibition of withdrawal is in effect, that they try to work with the person, do not automatically place them in segregation, and after 21 days they may “sign out”. Segregation would reportedly only be used if the person’s conduct is disruptive to the group.

The Handbook states that, “IPP is a 90 day structured program which includes physical training and drill modeled after the military...” The Physical Fitness Training is based on the U.S. Army Field Manual using techniques presented by the U.S. Army Military Police School’s Rehabilitation Training Instructor Course. Inmates are “expected to participate fully in all physical training sessions.” However, “Remedial physical fitness training may be ordered when an individual fails to achieve the minimum standards set for her program participation level.” The section of the Handbook titled “Drill and Ceremony” includes Drill Commands, Stationary Drill, Forming the Team, Breaking Ranks, Aligning the Platoon, Opening and Closing Ranks, Steps and Marching, Rest Movements, Half Step, Marching in Place, 15 Inch Step Right/Left, 30 Inch Step Double Time, Changing the Direction of a Column, and Forming a File.

The Handbook details the daily schedule using military time, beginning with a 0400 formal count, and ending with a 2400 formal count. The daily schedule includes “Inspection”, “Drill and Ceremony,” and “PT.” In addition, the schedule includes “Programming or Work,” “Education or Work,” and “Programming as Assigned.” The Weekend and Holiday Schedule also includes “Inspection,” and “Programming.” According to the Handbook, a three-person committee reviews each participant’s progress and conducts a formal interview with the participant at least every three weeks.

In follow-up communication with the ORW Inspector on May 24, 2005, it was relayed that in the past year since the current Inspector has been in the position, no grievances have been filed from any inmate in the Camp Meridian Boot Camp. The Inspector relayed that she provides orientation on the grievance procedure to those in the Boot Camp. She also relayed that she makes regular rounds in the area.

Based on the six-person “chain of command” that inmates are directed to use to relay any problem, issue or concern, CIIC staff believe that there is an inherent conflict and confusion regarding when an inmate could or should file an informal complaint. The Handbook provides an additional directive such as “Do not argue or complain,” which could be interpreted as “Do not file an informal complaint.” This message, coupled with the provisions that prohibit speaking to “anyone other than supervising staff,” work counter to the methods using posters and a hotline elsewhere in the facility to encourage inmates to report problems, including but not limited to sexual assault or abuse. One such brochure on Sexual Assault Awareness advises inmates to “REPORT THE ATTACK TO A STAFF MEMBER IMMEDIATELY.”

It is recommended that the Boot Camp aspects of the program be totally re-assessed in light of the research findings, and the DRC zero tolerance policy regarding “abuse.” The IPP can continue on as a residential unit of intensive program opportunities, resources and services, including the best of what is now available to the general population, addressing needs related to successful re-entry.

## **Mental Health Caseload**

As of April 2005, there were 726 ORW inmates on the mental health caseload, comprising 39% of their population of 1,865. System wide, inmates on the mental health caseload comprised only 18% of the population. ORW has the largest number on the mental health caseload of all Ohio prisons. ORW also had the largest number of mentally ill in segregation, with 39, though they comprised only 5.37% of the inmates on the mental health caseload. System wide, 4.26% of the inmates on the mental health caseload were in segregation. The 39 on the caseload in segregation at ORW comprised 55% of the inmates in segregation. System wide, 21% of the inmates in segregation were on the mental health caseload, a total of 336. The percentage of inmates in segregation who are on the mental health caseload in April 2005 ranges from none at seven prisons, to the high of 66% at ORW. There are 397 women at ORW who are classified as C1, that is, with Serious Mental Illness, comprising 55% of the caseload. The total Psychiatric Caseload is 655, the combination of inmates classified as C1 and C2.

## **Residential Treatment Unit**

The RTU is spacious, with ample programming room, as well as sufficient space for patients to enjoy free time out of their cell. The unit includes bookshelves, an ice machine and laundry room. A General Population inmate was in the laundry room, doing the laundry for the RTU inmates. Each cell in the RTU contained one bed, a sink and a window. ORW staff relayed that the RTU has eight to 10 crisis cells. During the inspection, two inmates were on constant watch. In the discussion with staff during the inspection, it was noted that ORW had one suicide in the past 18 months, and three suicide attempts since January 2004.

In April 2005, the RTU for the mentally ill reported an RTU caseload of 27, though the RTU has 74 beds, prompting concern about underutilization, particularly with the fact that 66% of the segregation population was on the mental health caseload. Grafton Correctional Institution is one of the seven prisons that reported that none of the inmates on the caseload was in segregation, yet they too have a Residential Treatment Unit, and a sizable mentally ill population. In speaking with mental health staff at that institution, staff stressed that while segregation placement does occur with regard to the mentally ill, the decision is carefully made by treatment staff due to the potentially devastating effects of such placement on the mentally ill. When placements occur, treatment staff carefully monitor the inmates to detect signs of deterioration. It is recommended that segregation placement practices regarding the mentally ill at ORW be carefully reviewed, and that a similar review be conducted on the extent to which those with adjustment problems are fully afforded the treatment opportunities and resources in the RTU.

In reviewing the RTU materials, positive aspects were noted. Inmates are encouraged to express concerns and questions about treatment during treatment team meetings. Based on opportunities to sit in on treatment teams at another prison, that has not been the case in all instances. Medication side effects are explained to the inmates by the ORW Psychiatrist before they start taking any medication, and inmates are advised to report

side effects to the nurses or Psychiatrist right away. Inmates are advised in the orientation packet that they “may request and will be provided with mental health assistance” at an RIB hearing.

The RTU inmates were loud, with many voicing complaints. Reoccurring concerns included cold water and cold room temperature. One banged on the door, saying she is supposed to have her own cell, and alleged a Captain pulled her hair out trying to subdue her. Complaints were relayed that the grievance procedure does not address issues, and has “no results.”

### **Town Meeting**

A Town Meeting was being conducted in the RTU at the time of the inspection. The meetings were recommended in the original unit management manual as an opportunity for unit staff to listen to and address problems or concerns. In spite of the obvious value of such regular communication sessions, this was the first time in CIIC history that a Town Meeting was being held during an inspection. In fact, this was the first time that CIIC had any verification that Town Meetings are conducted in Ohio prisons. It is therefore regarded as an extremely positive finding that Town Meetings are held at ORW, and especially positive that they are held in the RTU. Further, the staff member who served as Moderator was very attentive, a good listener, and sensitive to the inmates’ communication.

### **Assisted Living**

The Assisted Living Program is unique and extremely positive. It allows inmates to assist medically fragile inmates with daily living. Inmate participants are screened and selected by unit staff. They occupy the top bunks with their partner on the bottom bunk. The partner provides physical and emotional support. The program is located in Dorm Two of the Meridian Building. The entire area was very clean, well kept and had a relaxed atmosphere. All of the inmates were in good spirits, involved with cross-stitching, writing letters, listening to music or knitting.

Such a program could reap as many benefits at other prisons. It is strongly recommended that serious consideration be given to program duplication at prisons for men. Although some modifications may be necessary, the program has the potential to prevent the medically fragile from being taken advantage of, or otherwise victimized, to better meet their needs, to provide a meaningful role for a healthy inmate, and to lessen demands on staff.

Those who do not qualify for the Assisted Living Program, but who are elderly and/or have other special needs, the JG Medical Program is available. It is located near the medical building and food services. Those with severe limitations are assigned inmates to help them one-on-one with daily living tasks. Other programs are offered for older inmates, who have different needs and interests than others in the general population.

## **Merit Housing**

Merit Family Day is cited in the ORW website as one of their unique programs. According to the DRC website, in 1996, ORW was experiencing a great deal of difficulty with constant disruptions caused by Maximum and Close security inmates, which prompted the staff of ORW to conduct a survey of staff and inmates. Inmates reportedly relayed that too much attention was paid to disruptive inmates, while there was a need for an incentive for good conduct. As a result, Merit Housing was re-instituted at ORW.

The main privilege of being in Merit Housing is the yearly Family Day, described as a well-organized day of activities planned by the participants. Although the number of visits an inmate receives reportedly decrease the longer she is incarcerated, 83% of the Merit Inmates received a family visit for Family Day. Activities that cannot be accommodated on regular visits are allowed on this day, such as mothers playing volleyball with their children, or inmates entertaining their families with music or skits. The inmates benefit because it serves as a clear incentive for maintaining good behavior so that they may participate.

## **Youthful Offender Unit**

A Youthful Offender Unit houses those under the age of 21. Special therapeutic programs have been developed for the youth, including an incentive program, domestic violence program for victims and for perpetrators, Loss and Grief Group, Positive Image Group, AIDS Awareness, Substance Abuse, Victims Awareness, Resiliency through the Arts Program, a Christian program dividing youth into families with a spiritual mother and father, team building exercises, and conflict resolution skills. Though the shower room and windows were in need of repair, the atmosphere was pleasant and peaceful. The art program was underway at the time of the inspection. It has reportedly been successful in enhancing increased communication, problem solving, and teamwork, decreased conduct reports, and improved community service performance.

## **Death Row**

New Cottage also houses the only woman on Death Row in Ohio. She is kept on a completely separate floor and wing from the juveniles and other youthful offenders. The Death Row wing is located on the second floor, and includes a small but adequate recreation room, kitchen, restraint closet for the daily restraint inventory, and the inmate's room. The recreation room included a desk, chair and toilet. The inmate's cell or room includes a bed, typewriter, toilet, sink and clear-back television.

Chipping paint and water stains were observed on the ceiling of the Death Row wing. Plastic was over the window in the recreation room to protect from the cold. In spite of the need for some repairs, the area now used for the inmate on Death Row, is regarded as a major improvement over her initial placement at ORW, based on the communication received. The quarters were modest, clean, orderly, and provided a positive environment for long-term placement.

Staff noted that ORW has a Protective Control (PC) Unit, but only one inmate was in PC at the time.

### **Other Housing Units**

In Lincoln Cottage, the first floor showers had no showerheads. Showers and vents were in need of cleaning. Doors were labeled with the inmate's name and job assignment, including the job title "Clerk." It is CIIC staff's understanding that long ago, the prisons were to cease the use of Clerks due to issues of power, duties and access to information, which posed a threat to security. However, such positions have been found to exist at numerous prisons in 2003 and 2004, even at prisons in which the Warden verified to the CIIC that such positions are prohibited. No written DRC policy addresses the issue of specific positions and duties. It is recommended that a DRC policy be developed on inmate job assignments to provide clear guidance to all institutions on prohibited positions and duties for safety and security purposes. ACA Standards exist on the subject, indicating the importance of establishing policies and procedures to guide practice and to ensure compliance.

Arn Two Complex houses Level 3 and Level 4 inmates, and was included on the inspection. Inmate movement was orderly but relaxed. Maintenance problems were noted. Holes were observed in the ceiling, some due to water damage. Showers were in need of repair, with some running constantly and unable to shut off. Pending repair, inmates were using showers in the Segregation Unit. Reportedly, showers would be replaced in all buildings in the next few months. Complaints were received about a leaky toilet and a broken toilet seat. Some alleged that grievances "don't get answered," while others were not satisfied with the grievance decisions. Some alleged that informal complaints are "ignored." Some complained of "disrespectful officers."

### **Segregation**

Inmates who are placed in segregation at the Ohio Reformatory for Women are housed in Arn Four. On the day of the inspection, ORW staff reported that there were 50 inmates in segregation, with three security staff on duty. The staff members were professional, accommodating and helpful. According to staff on site, the segregation unit at ORW has a maximum capacity of 75. Medical staff were making rounds in segregation.

The inmates in segregation were loud, appeared to be restless and some were yelling. The cells in Arn Four were neither clean nor orderly. Several inmates called attention to the "dirty" cells, and complained of the cold temperature in the cells. Still other inmates voiced concerns regarding the showers, relaying that they often do not work. When they do work, the water temperature is reportedly "ice cold." Another common concern expressed by the inmates in Arn Four pertained to laundry services. Reportedly, bed linens are not changed on a regular basis. Some stated that they had not received clean sheets in over two months. Some complained of ants in the cells.

General Population inmates prepare the food for segregation inmates. Inmate porters were observed preparing to serve the meal. The porters who are assigned to segregation wear green dresses. According to inmate comments in segregation, when the food is delivered, it is normally cold. Some also complained that the food is “not that good.” The kitchen area was observed, as well as the insulated carts that should keep hot food hot.

The segregation visiting room was observed. Visitors are brought directly to Arn 4 for visitation. The room was small and separated by glass, which prevents the inmate from having contact with the visitor. The inmates and their guests communicate via telephone. Inmates’ visitation privileges are based on security level, with visits ranging from two to four hours.

During the on site visit of May 6, 2004, while in the segregation unit, inmates claimed that they only receive clean bed linens every 60+ days. The women also relayed that they only receive two sanitary napkins per shift, and they have no sanitary wrapping when they are received. Plumbing problems, complaints of having no mattress, complaints of “foul” showers, and toilets that do not work, were relayed in the Disciplinary Control range. A Unit Sergeant stated that fecal matter had just been thrown on him, but the nurse reportedly refused to check him.

### **Rules Infraction Board Hearings**

The on-site visit included an opportunity to observe Rules Infraction Board (RIB) hearings. The Rules Infraction Board consisted of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, and Case Manager. The Unit Sergeant serves as the Hearing Officer for the inmates in their unit.

There were positive observations of the Rules Infraction Board (RIB) hearings attended during the on-site visit. The RIB was mindful of the fact that inmates must be provided with assistance in the hearing if the inmate is on the mental health caseload. Further, the RIB Chair took the time to thoroughly explain the changes to inmates who appeared to be confused.

### **Medical Services**

The Medical Services area was clean and well maintained. According to the 2004 medical monthly reports, the population ranged from 1,821 to 2,045. The Health Care Administrator was projected to work 160 hours per month, but actual hours were 0 in three months, only 40 hours in one month, and less than 160 in six months of the year. RN hours were projected to be from 1,280 hours to 1,440 hours per month. The actual hours were below the projected time in all but two months of the year. RN overtime hours were not legible. LPN hours were projected for 480 hours per month, which was met or exceeded in three of the 12 months. Contract RN hours ranged from 905 hours to 1,791 hours per month in the period. According to ORW staff, a new medical building was in the construction process, and was due to be completed by the end of fall 2004.

During the on-site visit, CIIC staff observed an inmate being given an eye exam by an “inmate optometrist aid.” The inmate also gave an exam to one of the CIIC Inspectors. Although ORW staff relayed in follow-up communication that no inmate worker is permitted to give eye exams, the observation of three CIIC Inspectors prompts serious concern.

It is recommended that a review be conducted of practices pertaining to use of inmates in job assignments to ensure total compliance with ACA Standard 4-4393, “Offender Assistants.” The ODRC has come a long way in removing inmates from inappropriate positions, duties and assignments, compared with practices in place in the late 70s and 80s. Such practices were defended in the past by citing the cost savings compared with hiring civilian staff. In times of staff reductions and shortages, it may be tempting for some staff to revert to old practices which have long since been prohibited for very good reasons, based on safety and security issues.

### **CIIC Database**

From January 6, 2004 through January 12, 2005, the CIIC logged 40 contacts from ORW and 145 reported concerns, with 5,038 concerns from all Ohio prisons. The top six categories of ORW concerns consisted of Health Care, Safety/Sanitation, Staff Accountability, Facilities Maintenance, Force/Supervision and Special Management Housing. The number of concerns in these categories ranged from 10 concerns regarding Special Management Housing to 30 concerns regarding Health Care.

In CIIC’s history from 1978 to the present, a very small percentage of contacts have come from ORW compared to contacts from other Ohio prisons. There have been even fewer contacts from the other female prisons. Veteran ORW staff have relayed that ORW inmates are unique in that they tend not to communicate concerns by letter or formal grievances, but they are “very vocal” about any problems or complaints to anyone who will listen on site. They are reportedly “attention seeking” and want to talk one-on-one.” Certainly, the CIIC found the women in segregation, those in Level 3 and 4 housing, and those in the RTU to be very vocal about their concerns. In one case in Level 4 housing, one inmate did not hesitate to tell us that the inmate who had just complained about the broken toilet seat, broke it herself in order to get a cell move.

There was no evidence of fear and intimidation on site, as alleged in the Stop Prison Rape, Inc. Report in reference to the “climate” or “environment.” However, some ORW inmates have asked their family members to contact the CIIC and to not use their name in any inquiry made to the institution regarding the reported concerns. The majority of such contacts since the CIIC’s restart in October 2003 have relayed concerns in the Facilities Maintenance category that includes building temperature and windows.

## **Investigator Data**

According to the Chief Inspector's 2004 Annual Report, the ORW Investigator had 112 investigations at the beginning of the year, 134 initiated during the year, 123 closed in the year, and 128 pending at the end of the year. Staff Misconduct comprised the largest number of cases, with 53 such cases at the end of the year. The second largest category at the end of the year consisted of Staff/Inmate Relationships at 40. There were 33 such cases at the beginning of the year, 21 initiated in the year, and 14 were closed. There were 22 Inmate on Staff Assault investigations initiated in the year, and 30 closed, with seven pending at the end of the year. There were 15 inmate/inmate assault cases initiated and 19 closed in the year, with five pending cases at year's end.

Two sexual assault cases were initiated and closed in the year. There were no cases involving Staff/Drugs under investigation in the year. ORW had no Visitor Strip/Pat Downs, no Employee Strip/Pat Downs, no Major Shakedown, and no drugs or alcohol were confiscated the entire year.

The Warden and the Chief Inspector, who have supervisory authority over Investigators, can determine the extent to which investigations by the Investigator are thorough or "aggressive". However, as shown in the CIIC Biennial Report, delays in the Chief Inspector's responses to grievance appeals have been the subject of ongoing reported concerns to the CIIC. This is not a minor issue, for faith in and use of the grievance procedure as an effective means to have a problem resolved is necessary for the safety and security of the prisons.

The Chief Inspector's Office has a small, inadequate number of staff to make it possible to respond in an appropriate amount of time to the large volume of grievance appeals. Provision of a sufficient number of staff in the Chief Inspector's office is necessary to ensure not only that grievance appeal decisions are timely and that grievance appeal investigations are thorough, but that careful monitoring of investigations conducted by Investigators is assured. DRC is strongly urged to assess the total workload of the Chief Inspector's office, and to identify and implement a means to ensure that all responsibilities, including those pertaining to the Sexual Assault Policies and Ten Point Plan, can be met.

## **Inmate Grievance Procedure**

The number of informal complaints filed at ORW increased by 1,101, with 1,342 in 2003 and 2,443 in 2004. The volume of informal complaints at ORW in 2004 was second highest in the prison system, with the highest number of complaints at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility where 3,432 informal complaints were filed. Of the informal complaints filed at ORW in 2003 and 2004, there were 521 untimely responses in 2003 and 1,017 untimely responses in 2004. There were more untimely responses to informal complaints at ORW in 2003 and in 2004 than at any Ohio prison.

The number of grievances filed increased by 43, from 250 filed in 2003, to 293 filed in 2004. There was an increase of 26 in the number of inmates who filed grievances in 2003 and in 2004, with 122 inmates in 2003, and 148 inmates in 2004.

In 2003, there were 70 ORW appeals of grievance decisions to the Chief Inspector. Appeals increased by five in 2004 when there were 75 appeals. The highest volume of grievance appeals in the prison system came from the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, with 353 appeals in 2003, 418 appeals in 2004. SOCF also ranked highest in the number of grievances filed directly with the Chief Inspector, with 53 in 2003 and 60 in 2004. ORW grievances filed directly with the Chief Inspector, who investigates original grievances pertaining to an Inspector or Warden, totaled only 14 in 2003 and reduced to only six in 2004.

## **Drugs**

Positive Urinalysis Tests at ORW totaled ten in 2003 and two in 2004, compared to the highest in the prison system at Ross Correctional Institution with 141 in 2003, and 202 at North Central Correctional Institution in 2004.

In 2003 there were six ORW drug investigations initiated by the Investigator in the category of "Other". In 2004 ORW only had two such investigations in the category. Drug investigations initiated by the Investigator in the category of Inmate/Visitor at ORW totaled only two in 2003 and only two in 2004.

System-wide in 2003 and 2004, there were 66 and 69 drug investigations in the category Mail/Packages. Only one such investigation occurred at ORW in each of the two years. There was only one drug investigation involving staff/inmate in 2003 at ORW, and one in 2004. System wide, there were 36 such investigations in 2003 and 72 in 2004.

System-wide in 2003, there were only six investigations initiated by the Investigator regarding drugs pertaining to staff. In 2004, the number increased to 25 such investigations. At ORW, there were no such investigations in either year.

## **Staff Misconduct**

In 2003 and 2004, the ORW Investigator had the largest number of investigations pertaining to staff misconduct in the prison system, with 40 such investigations in 2003 and 37 in 2004. ORW had the largest number of investigations regarding Staff/Inmate Relationship, with 37 in 2003 and 21 in 2004. ORW had the largest number of inmate on staff assaults in the prison system in both 2003 and 2004, with 26 and 22 respectively.

System-wide, there were 39 investigations of sexual assault in 2003, which increased to 124 cases in 2004. The Ohio Reformatory for Women had five such investigations in 2003 and only two such investigations in 2004.

ORW had the second highest number of investigations of inmate on inmate assault in 2003, with 26 such investigations. In 2004, there were 15 such investigations in 2004 at ORW.

**PICKAWAY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**  
**On-Site Visit Dates: July 14, 2005 and July 25, 2005**  
**CIIC Staff**

### **Summary**

The Warden and his staff were most helpful and responsive during the on-site visits. Improvements were definitely visible from the prior inspection. Morale among inmates and staff seems to have greatly improved, as well as attention to sanitary issues. Major improvements in the overall atmosphere at PCC were clearly noted. The inmates seemed to have a more positive attitude and the conditions of the facility appear to have improved since the prior inspection.

### **Population**

The population of the Pickaway Correctional Institution was reported to be 2,038, which ranked ninth among the institutions.

### **Frazier Health Center**

The facility was clean and the structure appeared to be good. Inmates were scrubbing and waxing the floors on both levels. There were 108 inmates housed in the Frazier Health Center. The typical age of the inmates at the Frazier Health Center was reported to be 40 and over. The youngest inmate was only 21.

There were 62 long-term care inmates. One of the bays is used as an inmate dining area for those who are unable to travel to the main dining hall. On the day of the on site-visit, food was brought over from the main dining hall to the bay for 39 inmates at the Frazier Health Center.

A walk-through was conducted of each ward. The nursing station is located on each ward between the two bays. Most of the inmates expressed positive comments regarding the new Warden and other new staff, and they were pleased with noticeable improvements, including but not limited to the cleanliness of the facility. Inmates expressed special praise regarding the new Warden and new PCC Unit Manager.

One inmate stated that in his previous stay at the Frazier Health Center the presence of insects and roaches was reportedly a major issue. However, since his return to the Frazier Health Center, he noticed major improvements, not only in the maintenance of the facility, but also regarding the nursing staff. Most of the inmates in the Frazier Health Center seemed to have a positive attitude. Praise was expressed for nurses "doing a good job." The inmates also indicated that they were aware of staff shortages and the workload of the current staff.

Although most of the inmates indicated that they were satisfied with conditions at the Frazier Health Center, two inmates expressed the following concerns:

One inmate in Ward 6 stated that an inmate urinates on the floor in the bathroom and does not clean up after himself. He stated that he has seen no improvements in maintenance, and termed overall care of the facility as “poor.” One inmate referred to the bathroom soap trays and walls as “disgusting.” In follow-up observation by CIIC staff, mold and residue did appear to be present. One inmate stated that bowel bags and dirty diapers were sitting by the beds in Wards One and Two for prolonged periods.

PCI staff relayed that each of the bathtubs has been or will be removed and replaced with wheelchair accessible showers. The new showers are not only easier to clean, but also improve access for the inmates. PCI staff explained that the inmates would have the ability to use their wheelchair or a plastic chair in the shower. PCI staff relayed their hope that all showers would be installed by the end of September 2005. The cost of contracting out the completion of the work was estimated to range from \$10,000 to \$13,000. Due to the workload of the civilian Maintenance crew, they were reportedly unable to also perform the installation.

### **Smoking**

Inmates expressed concerns pertaining to inmates and staff allegedly smoking in the Frazier Health Center. In follow-up communication, staff relayed that no smoking is permitted inside the Frazier Health Center building. Further, smoking areas designated for staff are located outside of the building, and smoking areas for inmates are located in an outside courtyard at the Frazier Health Center. According to additional follow-up communication, staff relayed that tobacco use is prohibited in the Frazier Health Center, and that the policy is implemented with constant enforcement by the staff assigned to the unit.

### **Medical Issue**

One inmate who relayed that he has a dislocated shoulder, expressed concern regarding the extent to which he was receiving proper medical attention. According to staff, the inmate was sent to the clinic for evaluation. It was further relayed that the inmate was receiving pain medication, but he reportedly refused to wear his specially fitted brace. Reportedly, corrective surgery had not been recommended due to the medical risks involved to the patient.

### **Dialysis Unit**

PCI staff relayed that the number of dialysis patients has grown. On the day of the on-site visit, usage was at full capacity, with 62 inmates using 14 dialysis machines. The Frazier Health Unit Patient Schedule showed that 14 patients were scheduled for dialysis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the morning, 14 in the evening, and eight patients at a “time to be determined.” Fourteen patients were scheduled in the mornings on

Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 12 were scheduled for the afternoons. A fifteenth machine is maintained in a secure area for high security inmates and emergencies.

The patient to nurse ratio was reported to be four to one. The two-year old equipment was termed "state of the art." It reportedly can be upgraded at a cost savings compared to purchasing new equipment in the future. The water filtration system, which is also state of the art, is located in a room behind the walls of the dialysis center in the laundry area. One inmate stated that he has been on dialysis for seven years. He praised the program and credited it with saving his life.

Small red biohazard wooden boxes or crates were observed with drops of blood on them. Staff indicated that there is a need for larger bio-waste cans to dispose of med-waste. The cans reportedly fill up quickly. Staff also indicated that a larger area and more dialysis machines were needed. Movement of the site is restricted due to the cost prohibitions of building a new water filtration system.

### **Weekend Brunch**

In regard to food, one inmate commented that minimal meals are offered on Saturdays and Sundays, when brunch is provided instead of the regular breakfast and lunch served from Monday through Friday. The concern was expressed that brunch reportedly causes diabetic inmates to "crash diet" over the weekends. He added that he does not receive enough state pay to purchase supplemental food from the commissary. In follow-up communication, PCI staff relayed that the diet provided as part of the weekend brunch meal meets diabetic diet requirements. Also in follow-up communication, staff relayed that the brunch program is a pilot program that was scheduled to end on August 20, 2005. According to the program, inmates are provided three meals per day if they do not wish to participate in the brunch program. All meals for the program are created in consultation with dieticians and are served at all institutions in the brunch pilot. An example of a breakfast in the pilot program was cited as follows: 4 oz. Apple juice, 3 slices toast, 3 oz. peanut butter, 3 oz. jelly, 2 cups milk, sugar, coffee.

Another inmate alleged that the food is too high in sugar and salt content, which is reportedly troublesome to those on a cardiac diet. Another inmate alleged that he had not seen a Dietary Specialist and has not been fitted for a wheelchair since his arrival at PCI. The Frazier Health Center staff relayed that they have no problem accommodating special diets for the inmates, not only medical diets, but also religious diets.

### **10-E Unit**

Although 10-E was reportedly non-smoking, it was apparent from the tobacco smoke odor, that there was smoking in the unit. The building was very warm, but industrial fans were stationed in the corners of each room to help with ventilation. One of the Sergeants proudly discussed programs that he developed at PCI. The staff person took pride in his work and in his efforts to make a difference. Programs included the following:

- Lifeline Program, which teaches inmates typing and computer skills in the Law Library.
- Promise Keepers, in which eight to ten inmates meet one day per week for 1.5 hours.
- Goals and Public Speaking Program, which includes information on setting and making goals.

### **9-E Unit**

The Unit known as 9-E is a one story, metal building that was extremely hot, even with the doors open and the fans blowing. Several inmates relayed concerns regarding the extent to which the heat was reportedly affecting the health of the inmates. One inmate AIDs patient stated that several elderly inmates who also have AIDS, receive dialysis, and are concerned about the effects of the heat on their health.

The extreme heat in the metal building prompted serious concerns, especially due to the presence of inmates who are reported to be in ill health. It has long been known that certain medications cause users to be extremely sensitive to heat. It is recommended that necessary steps be taken to maintain a proper temperature in the building year round, so that no inmate or staff's health is negatively affected by extreme cold or extreme heat. It should be noted that the building is reportedly warm in the winter.

### **Nurse Vacancies**

Staff relayed that they have a high vacancy rate for nurses. At the time of the on-site visit the Pickaway Correctional Camp (PCC) had 15 vacant nursing positions. While contract nurses are used to compensate for the lack of civil service nursing staff, difficulties reportedly arise from the constant turnover in personnel. Staff also noted that mandatory overtime has been necessary due to the nursing shortage. The potential benefits of adding Nurse Aides to the staff were noted.

The number of vacant nursing positions at PCI/PCC was cited as a major concern by institution staff in the prior October 2003 CIIC inspection. In recent follow-up communication on the subject with ODRC staff, it was relayed that the recruitment difficulties stem from the institution's proximity to a major metropolitan area. That is, ODRC is unable to compete with monetary and related benefits, such as shift differential pay offered by other employers in the community. ODRC has a Retention and Recruitment Committee currently looking into the problem and solutions. Reportedly, the Correctional Medical Center also has difficulties recruiting nurses.

### **Activity Specialist**

Staff relayed that an Activity Specialist is on site at the Frazier Health Center one day per week to work with the patients. Funded through a federal grant, the staff person provides therapy in the form of arts and crafts. The provision of an Activity Specialist to work with the ill and infirmed inmates on the PCC site is genuinely applauded. This was cited

as a need by PCI staff in the prior inspection. However, in view of the need for positive activities to eliminate idleness and the multiple problems that can stem from boredom, staff provision of positive activities for patients should be expanded beyond one day per week.

### **Assisted Living**

The potential for adapting the Assisted Living Program now used at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) to the infirmed at Pickaway Correctional Institution was discussed. As implemented at ORW, healthy inmates are matched with those in need of help due to age or physical disability. At ORW, the healthy inmate bunks on the top, with the infirmed inmate assigned to the bottom bunk. The healthy inmate's assignment is to provide whatever help is needed.

The program would reportedly be difficult to implement due to lack of staff, different security levels, and the logistical problems involved in any transport of inmates between PCI and PCC. The use of inmates to assist the infirmed at the former Orient Correctional Institution included those assigned as "pushers" to push those in wheelchairs as needed. The CIIC staff continue to believe that there may be an untapped potential to allow inmates, whether the able-bodied minimum security inmates who are already housed on the PCC site, or ambulatory patients in the Frazier Health Center or in the 10-E-1 Limited Duty Unit, or in 9-E, to volunteer, and be assigned jobs which would positively impact the daily life and environment of the infirmed, while requiring minimal civilian staff investment.

### **OASIS (Therapeutic Community Substance Abuse Treatment Program)**

According to one staff person, there is a need to improve continuity between the prison program and the community to reinforce the values instilled by the OASIS Program. One inmate relayed that in his opinion, the program is effective, and he has benefited from the peer group communication in OASIS. However, he expressed some concern regarding the age of the inmates involved. He felt that inmates who are 30 and older tend to benefit more from OASIS due to their maturity. The inmate himself stated that he is 27, and wished that the older inmates would speak up more often. Reportedly, many of the older inmates refrain from speaking up because they feel that the younger inmates will not listen.

### **3-Bay Toilets**

One inmate expressed a concern regarding the restroom facilities on their floor. He stated that two toilets in 3-Bay have been inoperable for three months. In the follow-up communication received on August 1, 2005, it was relayed that the Maintenance Department checked all toilets in 3-Bay and have made all of them operational.

## **C Unit Mattresses**

There were several ripped mattresses on the beds in C-2 and in C-1. Staff relayed that PCI submits an order for new mattresses every quarter. Unit Managers reportedly identify the number in most need of replacement, which is communicated to the Deputy Warden of Operations, who includes it in the order. In follow-up communication, it was relayed that the condition of mattresses will be reviewed and ordered as needed, and that PCI will purchase a mattress cover as a remedy.

## **Medical Services**

Staff noted that there are 13 vacancies in the Medical Department, consisting of one Nurse II position and 12 Nurse I positions. There are six vacancies on the first shift, four on second shift, and two on third shift.

## **Physician**

Some inmates alleged that the new Doctor refuses to listen to inmates when they have multiple ailments in addition to their primary illness that created their need to see the Doctor. Some inmates questioned the Doctor's interpersonal communication skills. According to follow-up communication, staff relayed that the Health Care Administrator reviews a physician's interaction with inmates as part of contract compliance monitoring.

One inmate complained that he was recently taken off of a bowel movement facilitator, which he reportedly had been on since 1987, and the Physician reportedly gave him no reason for his decision. PCI staff relayed that the inmate was prescribed two medications between September 2004 and April 2005, and that the inmate was seen three times since April 2005, with no prescription ordered by the Doctor. The alleged lack of information and lack of explanation communicated to the patient regarding the Doctor's decision are key issues that can easily be addressed, yet are so very important to the confidence and cooperation of patients.

Another inmate complained of repeated strip searches by an officer who, allegedly, did not check his pockets but ordered removal of his clothes. PCI staff relayed that the inmate was advised of the grievance procedure. It was also relayed that the Inspector would review the issue. While there is a good purpose to the documentation provided in the three-step grievance procedure, the reality is that many inmates will not use the grievance procedure for what they regard as good reason. Institutions with low grievance usage often explain that they handle problems before they become grievances. Some allegations warrant investigation, whether the inmate is willing to use the inmate grievance procedure or not.

**C-1**

Inmates in C-1 commented that the bathrooms were dirty, and that the proper solution was not being used to clean them. Staff relayed that the showers are cleaned with 256 cleaning solution. Staff indicated that there is reluctance to repair the bathrooms because the building is too old to drill into the walls and ceilings for repairs. Staff relayed that the cost of refurbishing the bathrooms would cost more than demolition. Reportedly, drains were backed up and caused flooding in the hallway, due to a faulty valve that has since been repaired.

The temperature was very hot in the units. Inmates in the Drug Offender Unit expressed concern regarding the majority of the fans being on one side of the room, and expressed that they should be providing some relief to both sides. One inmate stated that temperature does not improve in the winter, for there is reportedly "no heat." Staff relayed that the fan distribution would be reviewed.

Inmates in the Drug Offender Unit stated that painting over the water spots on the ceiling has only resulted in the spots reappearing. They also relayed that window screens are broken, allowing insects to enter. Pipes over their bunk beds were sweating, and the insulation wrapped around the pipes was absent in spots. In follow-up communication from staff, it was relayed that the screens have been checked and will be repaired as needed. It was further relayed that the Maintenance Department will ensure that all pipes are wrapped appropriately.

Inmates relayed that they do not receive shorts to sleep in. Rather, those in the Drug Offender Unit are required to wear yellow jumpsuits at all times, even when they are asleep. Inmates relayed that since they must wear the jumpsuits every day, they believe that they should be permitted to wash them more than once per week. With the importance of cleanliness, particularly in light of the recommendations on prevention relevant to staph infections, every effort should be made to ensure that all clothing is clean, even if it means increasing the frequency of laundry services, or making it possible for an inmate to wash his own jumpsuit.

One inmate relayed that he is in pain due to fused discs and is missing part of his leg. He stated that he regards his job assignment to work in the kitchen as inappropriate in light of his leg problem. Although test results reportedly document an injury, the inmate stated that the Doctor claims that he was never injured. In follow-up communication from staff, it was reported that the inmate was seen in the medical department on various dates, and that he was not injured in the emergency transport to med-bay as he reportedly alleged. The appropriateness of his job assignment, and verification of his alleged physical limitations remain unclear. This is perhaps another example of the importance of open communication of information and explanation for decisions by medical staff to the inmate patient.

One inmate relayed that he received a spider bite on the evening of June 26, 2005. When he reported the incident to medical staff, staff allegedly tried to dismiss the bite as

something else. Reportedly, the Doctor subsequently confirmed the spider bite, and reportedly denied that it was a staph infection. The inmate was upset that he was charged a medical co-pay and because it was reportedly later verified that he has a staph infection.

Another inmate alleged that he received a spider bite on his foot in May 2005 as he was putting on his shoe. He reportedly spent two weeks in the hospital and was reportedly given Ibuprofen. He alleged that he did not receive any antibiotics until pus started to ooze from his foot. In follow-up discussion with staff, it was relayed that the number of spider bites has decreased.

### **Segregation**

There were 78 inmates in the Segregation Unit on the day of the on-site visit. The unit contains 40 cells, with the capacity to hold two inmates each. The building is reported to be one of the oldest structures on the compound. Staff relayed that a contractor has been selected to build a new segregation/medical building. Groundbreaking was scheduled to occur in August 2005 with completion expected in December 2007.

The temperature in the building was hot and uncomfortable. There are four wings or ranges in the unit, with 10 cells on each side, separated on two levels. Ventilation was termed poor, and temperatures in some locations reportedly reach close to 90 degrees. The lower level was 84 degrees, which was reported to be the coolest part of the building. Floor fans were located at each end of the hallways to provide relief from the heat. Inmates complained that they could not feel any breeze from the fans. The inmates were dressed in underwear and shorts, and reportedly had minimal movement in order to try to stay cool.

One inmate relayed that his request for Protective Control was denied, and he had appealed the decision. He also relayed that he was supposed to be in a single cell, but that staff continued to give him a cellie. He reportedly received a conduct report for refusing to cell with one of the inmates. In follow-up communication, staff relayed that there was no evidence to substantiate the inmate's claim that he needed protection. As the inmate alleged, he was subsequently increased to level three and transferred where his problem followed him and his safety concerns intensified.

It is a concern that an inmate who is seeking Protective Control placement would be double-celled in segregation, and would receive a conduct report for insisting on remaining single-celled. Just because an inmate cannot prove that he faces serious danger, does not mean that his report of danger is without merit. The very process of investigating a PC request has reportedly included a staff person interviewing the persons who allegedly threatened an inmate's life, including gang members. Such communication from the staff to the other inmate(s) has increased an inmate's belief that he faces serious danger. It is recommended that practices relevant to the above be carefully reviewed to ensure that any error is on the side of caution when it comes to personal safety concerns and cell assignments, particularly in segregation.

## **A and B Units**

Housing Units A and B are in a new building on the PCI grounds. Both units have two floors with 528 inmates in each unit. Staff relayed that there is one Officer assigned to Unit A and one Officer assigned to Unit B, plus one Officer assigned as a floater. A Union Representative spoke to CIIC staff regarding the security concerns with the staffing of the units. Staff relayed that the inmates were moved to the buildings on March 9, 2005.

OPI and Food Service workers relayed concerns about being mixed with other inmates in the bays. Although each inmate has a locker box for personal property, they expressed concern that their property has been tampered with by the other inmates, while they were at their jobs.

Most of the inmates included comments regarding the lights being too bright at night, even when the lights are dimmed. In relaying the concern to staff, they lowered the lights for CIIC staff's observation. The lights did not appear to be dim enough for sleep. The light mode is reportedly set to reduce the lighting at night. It is reportedly consistent with statewide construction of new facilities. Reportedly, it is not possible to make the lights much darker for security reasons

The temperature in Unit B was not as hot as the older buildings on the compound, but it was still considered to be uncomfortable due to the heat. Some inmates commented on the negative impact of the heat on those with asthma. Continued effort is needed to address the need to maintain appropriate temperatures in the housing units for valid health reasons.

Food Service workers stated that they would like an increase in pay. They stated that they work the hardest, yet receive the least pay. One inmate stated that other inmates do half the work of the Food Service inmate workers, yet they receive little pay. It was added that Food Services operates 14 hours per day, while the other jobs in the institution may take only two hours per day.

Inmates in the housing units relayed that there are maintenance issues in Food Services. The ceiling was peeling and mold was present, believed to be due to the steam from the nearby dish room. Flies were also present in the dining room. Inmates stated that the place had just been cleaned, and added that the food and ventilation was "usually worse" than on the day of the on-site visit. Inmates also complained that the dishes used to serve their meals are not properly cleaned. They also relayed concerns about the reported lack of meat products included in their meals. In follow-up communication with PCI staff they relayed assurance that the meals are based on the DRC requirements for the state menu.

**CIIC Database: January 2004 to January 2005**

Of the logged concerns system-wide, a total of 487 concerns pertained to Health Care. The 107 concerns from or regarding Pickaway Correctional Institution in the Health Care category comprise the largest number of Health Care concerns at any one prison. The Pickaway Correctional Institution also had the largest number of concerns pertaining to Safety/Sanitation of any other prison, though there were only 24 such logged concerns from or regarding PCI, compared to 128 such concerns system-wide. Pickaway Correctional Institution also had the largest number of complaints regarding one's job assignment of any other prison, though only 13 such complaints were received from PCI, compared to 86 system-wide. Pickaway Correctional Institution also ranked first in the number of complaints regarding Recreation. There were 45 such complaints system-wide, and six in the category from or regarding the Pickaway Correctional Institution. PCI had the largest number of complaints in the Laundry/Quartermaster category, with seven such complaints from or regarding the Pickaway Correctional Institution, and 40 system-wide. PCI also had the largest number of complaints regarding the Library, though there were only five such reported concerns, compared to 25 such complaints system-wide.

**Assaults**

Based on ODRC data, in 2003, there were 482 inmate on inmate assaults system-wide, yet no such assaults were reported from the Pickaway Correctional Institution. In 2004, inmate on inmate assaults system-wide totaled 411, of which four reportedly occurred at the Pickaway Correctional Institution.

Based on ODRC data, in 2003, there were 544 inmate on staff assaults system-wide, including four at the Pickaway Correctional Institution. In 2004, such assaults system-wide decreased to 432. There were five such assaults at the Pickaway Correctional Institution in 2004.

**Deaths**

From October 25, 2003 through December 31, 2004 system-wide, 144 inmate deaths occurred in Ohio prisons. Pickaway Correctional Institution was the parent institution of 31 of the inmates who died in the period, the largest number of any of the prisons. This is obviously due to the number of seriously ill inmates who are assigned to PCI because of the presence of the Frazier Health Center and the medical resources which it provides. The Corrections Medical Center was the parent institution of 23 inmates who died in the period, ranking second highest system-wide.

**Mental Health Caseload**

The Pickaway Correctional Institution had a mental health caseload of 331. The Pickaway Correctional Institution ranks fifth system-wide in the number on the psychiatric caseload, with 324. Of that number, 173 were classified as C1, Seriously

Mentally Ill, and the remaining 152 were classified as C2. Only seven inmates on the mental health caseload were classified as C3.

At the Pickaway Correctional Institution, there were 12 mentally ill inmates in Segregation. According to communication from the ODRC Deputy Director of the Office of Health Care, when possible, inmates in need of Residential Treatment Unit placement (RTU) are transferred to an RTU of a similar security level. Based on information provided on October 8, 2004, the Pickaway Correctional Institution generally uses the RTU at the Level 3 Correctional Reception Center, which has 106 RTU beds, or the Level 2 Chillicothe Correctional Institution, which has 150 RTU beds.

### **Suicides**

System-wide, in calendar year 2005, there were 140 suicide attempts in Ohio prisons, including three at the Pickaway Correctional Institution. North Central, Richland, and Trumbull Correctional Institutions also had three attempted suicides each in the year

From October 25, 2003 through December 31, 2004, there were 12 suicides system-wide. They occurred at nine of the prisons. No suicides occurred at PCI in the period. In calendar year 2005, there were five suicides system-wide. None occurred at the Pickaway Correctional Institution

### **Grievances**

There were 828 informal complaints filed in 2004 at the Pickaway Correctional Institution. The Southern Ohio Correctional Facility and Pickaway Correctional Institution each had 185 informal complaints with untimely responses in 2004

The Pickaway Correctional Institution ranked third in number of inmates who filed grievances, with 190 inmates who filed one or more grievances in the year.

Monthly reports from the PCI Inspector were received from January through May, and from July through November 2005. No report was received for June 2005. In the period, a total of 222 grievances were filed at the Pickaway Correctional Institution. The largest number of grievances pertained to Force/Supervision, with 51, followed by grievances regarding Property with 50. The third largest category of grievances pertained to Health Care, with 36 grievances. There were no grievances filed regarding personal safety, segregation, classification, legal, telephone, religious, recreation, recovery services, library, or psychological/psychiatric services.

System-wide in 2004, a total of 6,303 grievances were filed. Pickaway Correctional Institution ranked ninth, with 291 grievances filed. Pickaway Correctional Institution ranked 13 among the institutions, with 99 grievance appeals. Richland Correctional Institution also had 99 appeals in the year. There were only nine original grievances filed with the Chief Inspector in the year from the Pickaway Correctional Institution regarding the Inspector or Warden.

**SOUTHERN OHIO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**  
**Inspection Report Date: March 17, 2005**  
**CIIC Member Present on Inspection: Representative Todd Book**  
**CIIC Staff**

### **J-Complex**

According to communication from inmates and observations regarding J complex, serious attention needs to be given to this particular area of the institution to enforce the requirement to provide and maintain clean, sanitary cell conditions.

### **K-2**

K-2 block was observed as in need of attention in regard to sanitary conditions. The cells were regarded as poorly ventilated and in need of attention to improve both sanitation and lighting.

### **Medicine Balls**

In the interests of safety and security, it is strongly recommended that medicine balls be eliminated from SOCF due to their proven misuse to cause physical harm to others.

### **J-4**

Based on the inspection of J-4, a thorough cleaning was needed. Serious attention should be given to the sanitary conditions of this unit by staff. The conditions indicate that constant monitoring and supervision are needed to ensure that the block provides a safe, sanitary environment, as well as to ensure distribution of necessary cleaning supplies and provision of assistance as needed. Sanitary conditions of the cells should be given priority attention. An acceptable level of hygiene should be maintained in all cells throughout the institution, especially the mental health and segregation units.

### **Mentally Ill Urine/Feces Throwers**

One SOCF staff person relayed that the “majority of **slinger flingers**,” reportedly 95% are in 4B lockdown, and reportedly 65% are mentally ill. Further, such behavior reportedly occurs most frequently in the K2 and J2 slammer cells. With that, it is reasonable to question the extent to which they are receiving the maximum resources of the mental health staff and programming available at SOCF.

### **URINE/FECES THROWERS: CAUSAL FACTORS**

At SOCF, whether by the mentally ill or the mentally healthy, throwing urine/feces is reportedly a method to “get back”, to react to reportedly hateful words or actions, and/or to express their anger, hatred and total disrespect of another, whether the target is a staff person or an inmate. If it is true that the majority of “bomb outs” occur in the K2 and J2 slammer cells, consideration must be given to identifying what it is about the

environment, including inmates and staff in the area, the place, placement, and cell conditions, which may contribute to the problem.

#### **4B Porter Proposal**

One SOCF staff person relayed that bomb outs stem from boredom. Those in 4B lockdown have no jobs. The current practice is to have general population 4A inmates work as porters in 4B. This has been cited as a problem by SOCF staff, in part because the inmates are reportedly constantly pressured to smuggle in contraband. In addition, according to SOCF staff, inmate porters reportedly do not want to go into the 4B blocks, so they reportedly spend as little time as possible in them. Unless monitored and closely supervised by Officers assigned to the blocks, inmate porters may not be fulfilling their assigned duties with regard to cleaning the blocks, ensuring that inmates have what they need to clean their cells, and providing proper meal trays to the inmates.

#### **Staff View of Programs**

According to one staff person, the post-riot, anti-inmate mentality coupled with boredom, leads to a combative, explosive environment on both sides, staff and inmate. Reportedly, it takes staff willingness to get a work program going at SOCF, such as mowing grass with a push mower, and/or growing vegetables inside the fence.

Idleness and boredom in 4B lockdown is also reported by SOCF staff to be partly related to the extremely poor TV reception in the area, termed “the worst.”

#### **Programs Via TV in Lockdown**

Consideration should be given to providing positive programming over the TVs on the ranges.

#### **Library Use**

Library deficiencies were cited by one staff person as relevant to the boredom issue. Every effort should be provided to maximize the potential of the library to provide a meaningful use of lockdown time via reading.

#### **Inmate on Staff Assaults**

The number of inmate on staff assaults at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility merits priority concern, as well as a careful review to determine the causal factors, so that an effective prevention plan can be implemented.

#### **Use of Force**

The largest number of use of force incidents were prompted by an inmate’s refusal of a direct order. In such cases, it is not known the extent to which alternatives to force were

first attempted to gain compliance. This would seem to be an area in which training in prevention of use of force incidents could assist in reducing the number of such use of force incidents, which is in the best interests of staff as well as inmates due to the injuries which can result to both.

Based on SOCF data, of the 286 inmates involved in use of force incidents in 2004, 126 were on the mental health caseload, comprising 44% of the total. Data also shows that an additional 49 inmates involved in the use of force were on the mental health caseload in the past, and in nine instances, the inmate was placed on the caseload after the use of force incident. Therefore, a total of 184 inmates with a mental health history were involved in a use of force incident, comprising 64.4% of the use of force incidents in 2004...

### **Proposed Staff Survey**

It has been suggested that the CIIC conduct an SOCF staff survey to seek broad input on identified problems or issues of concern. However, SOCF staff are free to contact the CIIC by phone, letter, or in office visit at any time. The survey suggestion is one that the SOCF Administration could and perhaps should more appropriately consider. With the announcement of a new Warden's arrival on April 4, 2005, such staff input could be a valuable guide in determining priority directions.

### **Priority Initiatives**

#### **THE MENTALLY ILL IN 4B**

The original concept of housing the mentally ill who are classified as level 4B together to maximize ease and frequency of access to mental health staff and to create an intensive mental health treatment unit and environment necessary to improve mental health and behavior, should be implemented. The four empty cellblocks make it possible to move the J-4 concept to other secure blocks on K side to include levels of freedom, privilege and restrictions based on behavior and needs. Movement, confrontation, and use of force can be minimized by providing within the unit(s) a better, equally secure alternative to J-2 placement. Just as Protective Control units and other Residential Treatment Units in other Ohio prisons have successfully created their own segregation status cells, so also could the proposed Intensive Mental Health Treatment Unit create the same.

The former Psychiatric Residential Treatment Unit that existed at the Correctional Reception Center responded to the need to work with the mentally ill who were in Local Control in Ohio prisons, and who demonstrated chronic inability to adjust due to their mental illness. The Unit's mission was to assist the mentally ill in modifying their behavior and to address their mental health needs. Misconduct was met with perseverance and concentrated efforts by treatment staff. Cooperation and compliance were not among the criteria for admission or retention.

An inmate's average length of stay at SOCF is three to four years. Part of the SOCF mission is to promote inmates' positive adjustment, behavior and ability to return to a

lower security level. Based on information provided in January 2005, of the mentally ill, one inmate each has been at SOCF for 13 years, 12 years, 10 years and nine years. Four of the mentally ill inmates have been at SOCF for eight years. Three of the mentally ill have been at SOCF for seven years. Ten mentally ill have been at SOCF for six years, and five mentally ill inmates have been at SOCF for five years.

The mental health staff are uniquely qualified to provide concentrated efforts to enable the 4B mentally ill to work their way to 4A and then to level three institutions. The fact that they are in 4B is an indication that they are not doing well. The lock down environment and idleness, without the full benefit of the programs and staff interaction afforded to the RTU inmates, falls short of intensive mental health treatment and falls short of providing an environment conducive to good mental health.

A secure K side environment transformed into a Residential Treatment Unit with mental health driven levels of restriction and privilege, per ODRC policy, would accommodate security and treatment needs. Consolidation of the mentally ill in 4B status would make a major, positive impact on the total environment in the 4B blocks, for the benefit of security staff, treatment staff, and 4B inmates who are not mentally ill.

#### **STAFF/INMATE RELATIONS**

One inmate who discussed the subject relayed that more should be done to improve staff/inmate relations. The inmate stated that efforts to improve staff/inmate relations could decrease the tension that reportedly exists between the two, and thereby reduce the occurrence and reoccurrence of bomb outs. If in fact bomb outs are a reaction to hostile, hateful or provoking words or actions, staff are in a position to halt the offensive behavior or to perpetuate it. Serious, intensive staff training on how to prevent such behavior should be provided.

The transformation initiated by litigation that occurred at the Ohio State Penitentiary in terms of staff/inmate relations, came about through a decided change in communication and interaction between staff and inmates. When it comes to human interaction, just as hostility begets hostility, and violence begets violence, respect begets respect. Staff/inmate relations need to improve to provide a safe, secure environment for all. A concerted effort to address the reported SOCF problems and grievances in the Force/Supervision category will help to bring about the same transformation and benefits experienced at OSP in improving the work environment for staff. It can be done through the guidance, direction and vigilance of administrative and security supervisors.

Training in Interpersonal Communications was provided in March 2004 to security staff. Specifically, the training was targeted at working with the mentally ill. Ongoing training in the area can only help to ensure the development of interpersonal communication skills, which are effective in all human interaction, not just with the mentally ill.

**IDLENESS**

One SOCF staff person relayed that getting rid of idleness is the key. It was felt that inmate boredom is the priority challenge at SOCF, not only in the lockdown 4B areas, but also in population where inmates reportedly have no meaningful jobs, and where education is limited to GED level.

The isolation and idleness in 4B is believed to be a causal factor in the behavior problems among 4B inmates. Addressing the idleness therefore would serve security purposes. Currently, 4A population inmates serve as porters, delivering meal trays to 4B inmates, cleaning, and performing housekeeping duties. The number of 4A inmates needed for Food Services, coupled with the reduced inmate population, has reportedly resulted in reduced availability of 4A inmate participants in coveted vocational programs.

The 4B blocks on the day of the inspection revealed a lack of attention to the need to provide a clean living environment. Inmates in 4B could earn the privilege of a job assignment as porter. This would address the Officers' concerns regarding the pressure placed on 4A porters to smuggle contraband into the blocks. Reportedly, the current porters do not want to go into the blocks, so they minimize the time spent in them, possibly neglecting their duties regarding cleaning and providing cleaning supplies to inmates who need to clean their cells. With the potential inmate workers in 4B, there is no reason why they should not be as clean and sanitary as the 4A blocks.

Block officers must be required to supervise the inmate porters, or as inmates have suggested, "cleaning crews," and must insist upon the highest standard of cleanliness in the blocks. The condition of the blocks translates into the atmosphere and behavior in the block. Cleanliness can only serve good purposes. It has been said that where cleanliness is lacking in a housing area or block, other serious, though less visible problems are also likely to exist.

Efforts should be made to maximize the video program time, again to eliminate idleness. Rather than non-productive TV programs which reportedly have extremely poor reception, the range TVs could provide an array of positive self-improvement video programs. Rather than invest staff time to create programs for 4B inmates, it would seem beneficial to obtain the video programs already developed at OSP for the level five inmates. Expanded use of the program booths could provide secure space for supervised activities such as community service projects for schools, or therapeutic activities.

Some SOCF staff have expressed that a large part of the problem has to do with the extent to which inmates are in lockdown, even in 4A. It reportedly will take staff's understanding that work and other meaningful activities are good for security, a fact proven throughout prison history. Community service projects for 4A inmates should be expanded. Video and other positive programming should be maximized. Again, the programs developed and used at OSP can be equally beneficial to the SOCF inmates.

**4B SEXUAL OFFENDERS AND “SLINGER FLINGERS”**

As of December 6, 2004, there were 189 sex offenders in level four. There is no sex offender program at SOCF, yet exposure or sexual imposition has been cited by staff and inmates as a source of frustration. Behavior modification programs should be designed to address targeted problem areas negatively impacting staff and other inmates, areas prone to provoke anger and violence. Sex offender programming should be provided in response to institutional need, not limited to convicted sex offenders, but also those whose misconduct in prison is sexual in nature. SOCF has never had a sex offender treatment program for even convicted sex offenders, in spite of the motivation for treatment and recognition of the need. There is no better way to alleviate idleness and make productive use of time, than by providing a meaningful behavior modification program designed to address offensive and violence producing behavior, which most definitely includes sexual misconduct and urine/feces throwers.

Those termed “slinger flingers” are demonstrating behavior that is an expression of anger and hatred which provokes the same. OSP initially responded to the problem by using strips to seal the sides and bottoms of cell doors, and requiring inmates to stand in the back of the cell, and to show their hands prior to approaching the cuff port opening. However, the most important preventive solution was reportedly found in improvements in staff/inmate relations via communication skills that replaced hostility with respect.

Mental health staff are the behavioral experts who are in the best position to design and implement a program of behavior modification for sexual offenders and slinger flingers at SOCF.

**SLAMMER CELLS**

Slammer cells exist only at SOCF. The extent to which they do or do not serve a legitimate institution need or actually provoke problems, has been debated throughout SOCF history. Strict criteria and guidelines for their use have been met by allegations of chronic non-compliance with criteria for placement and length of placement, including but not limited to placement of the mentally ill. The findings on the analysis of location of use of force incidents clearly identify the slammer cells as trouble spots. It is recommended that a serious review and careful appraisal of the use and existence of SOCF slammer cells be conducted, and that action be taken based on the findings.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

One staff person was questioned about the extent to which retaliation for filing grievances exists at SOCF. The staff person responded that there is no reason for staff to be retaliatory, because they “know nothing will happen to them” as a result of any grievance. If true, it points to a flaw in the grievance procedure at SOCF. Inappropriate supervision, for example, is the largest complaint category of reported concerns to the CIIC and the largest category of grievances at SOCF. If such allegations are valid, but are not being addressed, the reason must be determined. Such allegations are reported to be

the most difficult to prove or validate. Perhaps that is why so many “not resolved” grievances result in findings of “insufficient evidence to support the claim.”

An effective grievance procedure can prevent costly litigation and violence. It is the peaceable, proper method to report a wrong and to seek the Inspector’s intervention rather than respond in anger. The inmate grievance procedure should be an important part of the solution to resolve identified issues of concern pertaining to staff/inmate relations.

The Inspector’s thorough investigations and corrective action can complement the work of administrative and supervisory staff in bringing about improvements in communication skills, which promote respect, compliance and cooperation. By addressing the pattern of issues, grievances should decrease in volume, enabling the Inspector to increase responsiveness to interview requests and to increase block walkthroughs to make himself accessible to those unable or reluctant to use the grievance procedure.

**TOLEDO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**  
**Inspection Date: December 12, 2005**  
**CIIC Member: Representative Robert Latta**  
**CIIC Staff**

### **Summary**

The Warden and his staff were most cooperative and at all times professional. It was reported that the Warden personally makes daily or twice daily rounds to critical areas of the institution including food services and recreation. The Warden's knowledge of and positive interaction with staff and inmates were apparent.

The design and construction of the Toledo Correctional Institution was impressive. One of the unique aspects of the institution is that it is the only Level Three (close) security prison that is exclusively single-celled. Reportedly, TOCI was purposely designed to remain single-celled. Single cells are extremely beneficial to staff, inmates and the overall operation and condition of the institution. TOCI is free of the problems that inherently exist in double-celled institutions. TOCI is also unique because of its urban location, a factor that is always advantageous in staff recruitment.

The facility was very clean, quiet, orderly and controlled, yet with no sign of tension. Inmate communication was good. A critically important aspect of any prison environment, particularly among high security prisoners, is the extent to which the inmates feel safe. From all indications, including observation and interaction, they felt safe.

The Protective Control (PC) Unit at TOCI houses inmates who face a verified risk of serious physical harm in general population to the extent that protection is needed. Based on the comments of PC inmates, they sought more out of cell time and mixing among those in the unit. Some complained of the restricted movement due to range separations enforced in the PC Unit. Such separations have proven to be effective in another PC Unit in preventing physical confrontations and conflicts between PC inmates. PC inmates appeared to feel safe, based on their comments about wanting more freedom of movement in the PC Unit, and the absence of reports of fear or expressed concerns regarding safety issues.

There was a lack of program activity taking place at the time of the inspection. However, as detailed in the Program Section of the full report, many programs exist at TOCI. Further, some programs previously reported as "pending" have since become operational. Although the TOCI websites of July and August 2004 cited Industries and Vocational Programs as both "pending," the September 9, 2005 TOCI website listed the Plastic Bag Factory as an Industry and listed Administrative Office Technology as a Vocational Program.

During the inspection, some inmates were introduced to the CIIC who had long ago communicated extensively when they were at the Level Four (Maximum Security) Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, Level Five (High Maximum Security) Ohio State Penitentiary, and/or the former Administrative Control status previously in existence at other institutions. With their long histories of misconduct and maladjustment, some may expect that they will not make it at a Level Three (Close Security) prison. Although there is no known formal statement regarding TOCI having a special mission to aid the adjustment of such inmates, TOCI seems to provide an environment to make their adjustment more likely, and as importantly, the Warden seemed to welcome the challenge and opportunity.

### **Capacity, Population, Classification**

The capacity of the single celled Main Compound is 1,000 beds. The Minimum Camp's capacity is 125 (single) beds. The population as of July 4, 2004 was 789. The population as of September 9, 2005 was 801. As of November 9, 2005, the total population was 779.

Of the 801 inmates at TOCI on September 9, 2005, Level One (Minimum Security) inmates totaled 179. Four were classified as Level Two. A total of 607 were classified as Level Three (Close Security). Eleven inmates were classified as Level Four (Maximum).

Since TOCI was built to be a "high security" facility, it has the advantage of flexibility in terms of the classification of the inmate population assigned to TOCI. For example, after the institution was constructed but prior to its opening, the then ODRC North Regional Director relayed that due to TOCI's construction as a "high security" facility, it has the potential to house Death Row, Protective Control, a Residential Treatment Unit, or Administrative Control (now called Level four B). This flexibility in use enables the facility to adapt to changing future needs within the ODRC. It is definitely a positive factor.

The TOCI population on September 9, 2005 consisted of 434 African American (54.2%); 327 White (40.9%); 35 Hispanic (4.4%); and five "Other" (0.6%).

### **Staff**

According to the institution's written information of July 2004, the institution operated with a staff of 329, including 226 security staff. As of September 2005, TOCI staff total 332, with 213 security staff. November 9, 2005 data shows a total of 330 staff with 213 security staff.

Of the 205 male staff, 140 or 68.3 percent were White, and 52 or 25.4 percent were Black. "Other" staff totaled 13. Of the 124 female staff, 65 or 52.4 percent were White, and 47 or 37.9 percent were Black. An additional 12 females were classified as "Other" in the racial breakdown.

The TOCI Administrative staff identified the staff as one of the strengths of TOCI. According to TOCI staff, while the majority of the staff has four or less years of experience, they were reported to have taken much responsibility and to have adjusted well to working at the new institution. Most of the TOCI employees have never worked in a Level Three (close security) facility prior to working at TOCI. The majority of the individuals on staff are reportedly from Toledo and the surrounding areas. All new staff members are given two weeks of training to learn every post and the layout of the institution.

### **Inmate Housing**

The single cell arrangement at TOCI is unique among Ohio's prisons. Although the Dayton Correctional Institution is single celled, it is a Level Two (Medium Security) facility. The Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, a Level Four (Maximum Security) facility, and the Ohio State Penitentiary, a Level Five (High Maximum Security) facility, are also single celled. However, Toledo Correctional Institution is the first Level Three Ohio prison to be single celled, a major benefit to the environment and operations affecting employees as well as inmates. According to TOCI staff, after inmates experience single celling at TOCI, the inmates have mixed feelings and some reluctance when they earn a reduction in security level and transfer to a Level Two prison, which either has dormitory housing or double celling.

### **DRUG SANCTION UNIT**

According to the written material provided on site, A-Block is a close-security general population housing unit. However, during the inspection, A-Block included a drug-sanction unit that is staffed with two Correctional Officers and one Rover between floors. On the day of the inspection, some inmates were loud, while others quietly watched their wall-mounted televisions. A-Block contained a television on the range, as well washing machines and two phones for inmate use via collect calls. A-Block is designed with three shower stalls at the end of the cell rows. Upon inspection, the showers were generally clean. A small amount of rust along the handrail in one of the stalls was noted. The temperature in the block was comfortable and the block was well ventilated.

A-Block inmates relayed complaints about not being allowed outside of the pod. Reportedly, they are permitted outside only to smoke, with no outside recreation. Another inmate relayed that A-Block was run like "maximum security," while another noted that "it does no good to complain" and declined to elaborate due to the close proximity of staff members. One inmate in A-Block relayed that he tested positive for drugs, but did not receive enough time or get enough water to produce a sample. The inmate was ticketed for refusing to provide a urine sample, or cooperate with drug testing. TOCI staff relayed that inmates are given the mandatory three hours and three cups of water as cited in the Administrative Rules. If the inmate will not produce a sample, he receives a conduct report for refusal to test.

**PROTECTIVE CONTROL**

B-1 & 2 South are the only exceptions to the general population housing blocks, for the pod is reserved for Protective Control inmates and includes space for medical, library, unit management, and programming separate from the general population inmates. On the day of the inspection, there were 33 inmates in Protective Control (PC) with 22 white inmates and 11 black inmates, according to data posted in the PC pod.

B-Block in which PC is housed has a fenced entry cage with fogged glass walls to prevent seeing into the pod. Two Officers and one rover are assigned to the PC Unit. The cells in PC are kept locked except for allotted out of cell time according to the schedule. Reportedly, when one PC inmate is out of the cell, the entire PC block is locked down, to maintain local separations between inmates in PC. Inmates voiced concerns about the amount of time the block is locked down due to these local separations, and felt as though all PC inmates were being “punished” for the separations. While the order of range separations within the PC Unit is clearly regarded as a positive, maximizing individual activity and minimizing idleness within the unit can also help to achieve the same good purposes.

At the time of the inspection, the segregation unit for PC was not in use. Reportedly, PC inmates who were assigned to segregation were removed from their regular PC cell and relocated to the regular segregation unit used for general population inmates who need to be placed in segregation.

While in the PC unit, one inmate relayed a property issue in which a Correctional Officer allegedly broke a typewriter during a cell shakedown. Another inmate in the PC unit expressed that the institution is “run too tight” citing that escorts at TOCI are more strict than at other Ohio prisons. The mission of the PC unit is to ensure the safety of the inmates who have already been determined to face verified risk of serious physical harm in population. This “tight security” appeared to be good security, which is necessary to maintain a safe environment for all.

One PC inmate noted that shift changes result in operational changes within the unit, causing inconsistent practices and expectations by staff. Such differences between shifts are commonly acknowledged system wide, yet have been known to cause extremely serious problems when left unchecked. Consistent application and enforcement of the rules are important in any housing unit, but particularly important in a PC unit where their confinement and isolation from the rest of the institution, coupled with fewer programs and activity options tend to breed conflicts affecting staff and inmates.

**SEGREGATION**

One inmate who was in Disciplinary Control on the day of the inspection, had destroyed his cell while in segregation and was being kept in a wing of segregation, separated from all other segregation inmates. The safe cell included wire over the windows, provided no mirror, and the bed was welded to the floor.

One concern about the segregation unit was related to inmate Rules Infraction Board (RIB) hearing schedules. Specifically, inmates reported that they might be held in segregation from 10 to 14 days before their ticket is heard. Although administrative staff relayed that TOCI staff are good about monitoring how long inmates are in segregation, some TOCI staff indicated that some problems had existed with the monitoring of segregation status. Administrative staff reported that a better system is being developed to ensure that inmates are not held in segregation status any longer than they are supposed to be held. TOCI staff noted that with recent changes in the Administrative Rule and Rules Infraction Board procedures, the monitoring system was expected to further improve.

### **Mental Health Services**

Mental health statistics from all prisons are collected monthly by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Data from the September 2005 report cites the TOCI population as 776. Of that number, 680 inmates (87.6 percent) reportedly have no need for mental health services. The total Psychiatric Caseload was reported as 80, consisting of 54 inmates classified as C2 and 26 classified as C1. Those classified as C1 are determined to have Serious Mental Illness. The total mental health caseload was reported as 96, which includes the 80 on the Psychiatric Caseload, and 16 inmates classified as C3. The 96 inmates on the caseload comprise 12.4 percent of the TOCI population. According to the monthly statistical report, 18 inmates on the mental health caseload were in Segregation.

As noted on the monthly report, the Toledo Correctional Institution has no Residential Treatment Unit for the mentally ill. Although the Allen Correctional Institution has an 80 bed Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) and is within TOCI's cluster, Allen Correctional Institution is a Level Two (Medium Security) facility, while Toledo Correctional Institution is a Level Three (Close Security) facility. According to Central Office Mental Health staff, when an inmate needs to be transferred to access an RTU, the transfer request is processed through the Bureau of Classification. It was further relayed that the Bureau assigns the inmate to a particular institution based on security level, and also takes into account any separations from other inmates, as well as RTU bed availability. Based on communication from RTU inmates in the past, there was a previous mixing of the security levels within RTU's, which reportedly created serious difficulties for the RTU inmate patients. In most of the cases brought to the CIIC's attention, the inmates were Level Two (Medium Security) inmates who were transferred to Level Three (Close Security) Residential Treatment Units for mental health purposes. It is therefore regarded as a positive factor that the security level of the RTU is reportedly matched to the security level of the inmate RTU patient.

Based on the data provided in the monthly report for September 2005 from all institutions, there are three Close Security prisons with a Residential Treatment Unit, providing a total of 266 RTU beds.

The September 2005 mental health monthly report provides information on the number of inmates in segregation and the number in segregation that are on the mental health caseload. According to the report, there were 49 inmates in segregation at Toledo Correctional Institution, and eight of the inmates in segregation were on the caseload, comprising 16 percent of the segregation census. This is one of the lowest numbers and percentages of mentally ill in segregation among the prisons, which is an extremely positive acknowledgement. System-wide, there were 423 mentally ill in segregation on the last day of September 2005, comprising 27 percent of those in segregation. Chillicothe Correctional Institution had the largest number of mentally ill in segregation, comprising 47 percent of their inmates in segregation.

### **OPI Plastic Bag Shop**

The OPI shop at the Toledo Correctional Institution consists of a 5,500 square foot Plastic Bag Factory for the manufacture of trash can liners for use in Ohio's state parks and other state-used property, such as facilities that house state agencies. On the day of the inspection no operations were in progress in the plastic bag shop. Reportedly, when in operation, 17 inmate workers manufacture the bags using one machine. TOCI has a goal of doubling the number of inmates in the program and adding a second machine, but no timeframe was provided for the proposed expansion of the program. The bag shop had only recently received a permit to operate, but operations were not in progress as of the day of the inspections.

### **Vocational Programs**

Through a cooperative arrangement with Owens Community College, vocational Associate Degrees are offered at the Toledo Correctional Institution. Among the educational programs offered through Owens Community College is an Associate Degree in Business Management. This program had approximately 15 students enrolled at the time of the inspection. Vocational programs in formation at the time of the inspection were Automated Office Technology (AOT) program, and industrial training associated with the Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) Plastic Bag Shop operations. A new classroom was being outfitted with workstations and computers for the AOT course of study. The TOCI staff expressed a desire to expand the vocational offerings to include culinary arts, computer wiring and drywall vocations.

### **Medical and Dental Services**

Medical and Dental services at the Toledo Correctional Institution are provided on contract by an independent vendor, Correctional Medical Services (CMS). The medical area serves both medical and dental needs of inmates. Inmates may request services through five daily sick call sign-ups. At the time of the inspection there were 35 employees on the medical staff, with no vacant positions. The medical staff included five nurses. According to the Health Care Administrator, the medical unit operates with all the equipment needed.

## **Pharmacy**

Based on the information from staff, no Pharmacist was reported to be on staff. Further, no Pharmacist was reported to be among the contractual staff specified below. However, the monthly report provides data on the volume of prescriptions filled in the month, a total of 1,052 prescriptions. Although the above list includes one Pharmacy Technician, by Statute, a Pharmacist must be physically present to supervise any Pharmacy Technician, and such Technicians may not, according to state law, substitute for the services of a Pharmacist.

## **Use of Force**

In the CIIC Biennial Report of January 2005, a breakdown of Use of Force incidents by institution for November 2004 was provided. Although six institutions provided no data, the remainder ranged from no incidents at the Franklin Pre-Release Center, to the high of 40 at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

The Toledo Correctional Institution had only five total incidents in the month, among the lowest in the system. There were 14 prisons with more use of force incidents in the month than TOCI. Three of the TOCI incidents involved Black inmates, and two involved White inmates. Four were logged as "slight use of force," and one was assigned to a Use of Force Committee for investigation. Of the four incidents of slight force, two involved Black inmates, and two involved White inmates.

The Use of Force data from January through September 2005 at TOCI shows that in all, there were 61 use of force incidents at TOCI in the nine month period, ranging from two to 15 incidents per month, with an average of seven per month. January had the largest number of incidents at 15, followed by July with 11 incidents.

Of the 61 Use of Force incidents, 24 incidents (39 percent) were referred to the Use of Force Investigating Committee to determine if the force was authorized and not excessive. An average of two per month, with a monthly range of from one to six such incidents were referred to the Use of Force Committee for investigation.

## **CIIC Database**

The CIIC database for January 6, 2004 to December 31, 2004 shows that 63 contacts were received from or regarding the Toledo Correctional Institution in the period. A total of 1,789 contacts were received system-wide. Contacts regarding TOCI comprised 3.5 percent of all contacts. The largest number of contacts in the period was from or in regard to the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, with 285 contacts comprising 15.9 percent of the contacts.

As of December 5, 2005, the CIIC has received a total of 51 contacts from or regarding TOCI since January 1, 2005, and a total of 1,667 contacts system-wide. The 51 contacts from or regarding TOCI comprise 3.1 percent of the contacts system-wide.

The CIIC database for 2004 shows that the 1,789 contacts system-wide relayed 4,976 problems, issues or concerns in their communication. The 63 contacts from or regarding Toledo Correctional Institution relayed 203 logged concerns, comprising 4.07 percent of the reported concerns.

A review was made of the number of concerns logged from each institution from January 1, 2005 through October 17, 2005. System-wide, 4,694 problems, issues or concerns were reported to the CIIC. The Toledo Correctional Institution ranked 12<sup>th</sup> with 144 concerns, or 3.1% of all concerns. Eleven Ohio prisons had a larger volume of reported concerns than the Toledo Correctional Institution, ranging from 157 at the Grafton Correctional Institution, to 697 at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility. Twenty Ohio prisons had fewer reported concerns than TOCI, ranging from one concern at the Northeast Pre-Release Center, to 140 at the Correctional Reception Center.

### **Inmate Grievance Procedure**

In 2004, a total of 30,492 informal complaints were filed system wide, from 62 at Hocking Correctional Facility, to the high of 3,432 at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility. The Toledo Correctional Institution ranked ninth among the institutions, with 1,153 informal complaints filed in 2004.

In 2004, a total of 3,211 inmates system wide used the grievance procedure, filing a total of 6,303 grievances. At the Toledo Correctional Institution, 115 inmates used the grievance procedure, filing a total of 265 grievances. The Toledo Correctional Institution ranked 16th among the institutions in the number of inmates who filed one or more grievances.

In 2003, a total of 3,297 inmates filed one or more grievances. The number of filers declined in 2004 by 86. However, at the Toledo Correctional Institution, the number of inmates who used the grievance procedure increased slightly from 106 in 2003 to 115 in 2004, an increase of nine.

In 2004, a total of 6,303 grievances were filed system wide, ranging from nine at the Dayton Correctional Institution, to 656 grievances at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility. The Toledo Correctional Institution ranked 13th among the institutions, with 265 grievances in 2004.

The number of grievances filed system wide in 2003 totaled 6,395. System-wide, the number of grievances declined by 92 in 2004. Similarly, at the Toledo Correctional Institution, the number of grievances filed decreased by 59. The number of grievances filed in 2003 was 324 compared with 265 in 2004.

If an inmate is not satisfied with the Inspector's decision on a grievance, the inmate may appeal the grievance disposition to the Chief Inspector. In calendar year 2004, the Chief Inspector's office received 3,005 grievance appeals system-wide, ranging from no

appeals from the Dayton Correctional Institution and North Coast Correctional Treatment Facility, to 418 appeals from the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility. The Toledo Correctional Institution ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the number of appeals with 87.

According to the Chief Inspector's 2003 Annual Report, there were 59 appeals from the Toledo Correctional Institution in 2003. The number of appeals increased by 28 in 2004, with a total of 87 grievance appeals received from the Toledo Correctional Institution in 2004. System wide, grievances increased by 601 in the two-year period, from 2,404 in 2003 to 3,005 in 2004.

If an inmate has a problem or complaint pertaining to the Inspector or Warden, the inmate may file a grievance directly with the Chief Inspector. Such grievances are referred to in the Chief Inspector's Annual Report as "Original Grievances." In 2004, the Chief Inspector received 509 original grievances. The Toledo Correctional Institution ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the number of original grievances with 18, along with the Ohio State Penitentiary and Richland Correctional Institution.

**WARREN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION****Inspection Date: May 19, 2006****CIIC Member: Senator Eric Kearney****CIIC Staff****Summary**

The Warren Correctional Institution has been and continues to be viewed as one of the best DRC prisons. Nearly every part of the facility was extremely clean. The meal provided to inmates was considered good in both quality and quantity. Inmate/staff interaction also appeared to be good. The atmosphere was relaxed, with no visible tension between inmates and staff.

The staff were professional, courteous and accommodating. The Correctional Officer in the lobby of the entrance was very pleasant as she efficiently processed CIIC staff and members through the metal detectors. The morning conversation with the Warden was informative and insightful. As indicated by the Warden, the employees are among the facility's greatest assets. Good staff/inmate communication was evident. Inmates felt comfortable approaching the WCI staff with issues or problems. The Warden and other WCI staff listened and responded positively to their concerns. There were multiple positive examples of the excellent focus on staff accessibility and responsiveness to inmates. One inmate with a serious history of mental illness and self-harm at high security prisons, cited his positive change to two staff in his pod, noting that they deserve the credit for helping him. The encounter was regarded as significant, a very real reflection of positive qualities among WCI staff.

The programs and inmate job opportunities have helped prevent idleness from becoming a major concern. WCI staff seemed to appreciate the importance of such prevention efforts. During the inspection, the inmates were working on their job, taking an education/vocational class or interacting with other inmates. The inmates participating in the education and vocational programs were enthusiastic about the material and their instructors, particularly those inmates that participated in the Fiber Optics and the Pre-GED classes.

As has always been the case at WCI, inmate movement was excellent and impressive, with no loitering and no groups hanging together. Each inmate moved with a sense of purpose as they walked individually to their destination.

Inmates were open and candid in their communication with CIIC. The concerns ranged from confiscation of personal property to grooming and personal appearance. Many stated that they used the inmate grievance procedure as stated in Administrative Rule 5120-9-31, but were not satisfied with the results. More information regarding this is located in the section for the inmate grievance procedure.

**Entry**

CIIC staff entered the lobby, which is separate from the administrative building, and were pleasantly greeted by an officer. The officer used the proper equipment to x-ray possessions, which is standard procedure for visitors in order to detect possible contraband items. The lobby appeared clean and well kept with no visible maintenance issues. CIIC staff were escorted to the administrative building to speak with the Warden. The grounds were neatly manicured and well kept.

**Medical Services**

The Medical services building was the first unit inspected. CIIC staff had an opportunity to meet the Health Care Administrator. Inmates are reportedly scheduled for chronic care follow-up each quarter with the Physician and the Physician's Assistant. The Health Care Administrator relayed that she communicates frequently with the DRC Central Office medical staff through the telemedicine satellite room and meets with them on a quarterly basis.

The x-ray room and the Doctor's examination rooms were observed. Both appeared to be very clean.

The infirmary was clean and appeared to be well kept. CIIC observed the two negative airflow cells for inmates with Tuberculosis. The medical staff relayed that several of the cells were used for storage due to the need for additional office space after the new secretary was recently hired. According to staff, the new secretary currently uses the old storage area as her office.

**Protective Control**

The dayroom had an exercise station that included a mounted TV, stationary bike, pull-up bar, and a Stairmaster. The area contained a total of six showers with three on top and three on the bottom. Inmates who were allowed to display their creative talents covered some of the walls with paintings. The CIIC memorandum with the CIIC address and information was posted on the bulletin board near the front of the entrance.

The unit was very clean. They proudly displayed the monthly sanitation award they received from the Warren Correctional Institution Administrative offices in recognition for their hard work.

CIIC observed some of the protective control cells. The cells appeared clean as well. However, an area of concern was raised. The cell design of the Warren Correctional Institution is similar to some DRC institutions in that each cell has horizontal bars on the inside of the windows. Such bars have been used by some inmates at other institutions to tie the sheet used in their suicide by hanging. The Correctional Reception Center is installing "Kane" screening, which prevents inmates from having access to the bars. Warren Correctional Institution staff indicated that installation of such screening is not in

their budget plans at this time. The only maintenance approval from the DRC is the repair of the ceilings.

### **Segregation**

The inmates are double-celled and are screened by the staff for affiliation with any Security Threat Groups before they are assigned to their cells. The Unit staff relayed that they have attempted to have racially balanced cells when possible. As of the day of the inspection, there were 12 racially balanced cells in the unit.

The unit appeared to be very clean and well kept. However, inmates stated that they had seen ants in the unit and in their cells on several occasions. On the day of the inspection, a small number of ants were in fact observed outside of the cell doors. When the issue was brought to the attention of the Unit Staff, it was relayed that WCI uses a local exterminator to provide services to each unit twice per week. The Unit staff also noted that inmates are responsible for cleaning their own cells twice a week with the cleaning solution provided by the institution.

The unit was quiet, but not tense. Many of the inmates were sleeping or reading. One inmate had taken his mattress off the top bunk and was sleeping on the floor. The unit staff later relayed that some inmates prefer to sleep on the floor so they can use the top bunk as a storage shelf for their belongings. The Unit staff relayed some of the concerns expressed by the inmates. According to the Unit staff, the majority of the inmate complaints are in regard to the number of days they have to serve before their case is heard. Another issue of concern for inmates is their personal property. Reportedly several inmates have had personal items either lost or left behind when transferred from their previous institution. Kite forms and Informal Complaint Resolution forms were in clear site in separate boxes near the front desk and are available upon an inmate's request.

### **Mental Health Services**

The Mental Health Unit was clean and the air was fresh which is a clear sign of good hygiene among the patients. The cells were also clean and appeared to be in good condition. The observation cell in particular appeared to be in excellent condition. The cell was equipped with a leather covered bed and straps, a steel sink and toilet. In addition to the steel sink and toilet, each cell had storage space for the inmates. The cells were clean and in good condition. However, the showers contained mildew and water stains along the walls and the base of the showers.

### **Food Services**

The inmates came through the service line in single file. The Warren Correctional Institution is unique in regard to their food services. Not only does the institution offer a self-service line for the inmate side dishes, but it also issues hard plastic coffee mugs instead of the DRC standard no-handle cups. The meal consisted of a fish sandwich with tartar sauce, fruit cocktail, fried potatoes, and cole slaw. The quantity and quality of the

food was good. Although the dishes were clean, some of the blue serving trays still had food stuck in the corners. Although some inmates in the Protective Control Unit complained about the quality of the food, one inmate in the cafeteria was satisfied with the portions of the meal. However, he also stated that the Food Services should consider serving their meals with less starch and add nutritious items such as additional fruit and vegetables. The noise level remained moderate to low as inmates ate their meals within 15 minutes and other units filed through the serving line.

### **Ohio Reads Reading Room**

According to the monthly enrollment data, the Warren Correctional Institution Reading Room served 78 children during fiscal year 2005 with a total of 16 Narrator Hours. Recent data for fiscal year 2006 shows that the Warren Correctional Institution has not been as active in the program as they were the previous year. According to the monthly enrollment data, the Warren Correctional Institution did not serve one child in May of 2006 and has not served a child during the fiscal year. In comparison to the other DRC institutions, the Warren Correctional Institution ranks last in the most recent year-to-date data received in March of 2006. The North Central Correctional Institution was the highest with 2,843 children served. Other institutions such as the Dayton Correctional Institution and the Richland Correctional Institution served over 2000 children as well. The Ross Correctional Institution was the only other DRC facility that did not provide service to children in the Reading Room.

### **Recreation**

CIIC staff observed the outdoor and indoor recreation facilities for general population inmates. Segregation inmates have their own designated recreation areas within their units. Because the weather was warm and sunny, most of the inmates were in the outdoor recreation yard. The outdoor recreation area consisted of three polymeric workout stations featuring pull, sit-up, and dip bars. The area also had four basketball courts, three handball courts, and a baseball diamond surrounded by a walking track. While some inmates played basketball and handball, many inmates performed exercises at the workout stations. A few inmates were seen walking their dog and playing Frisbee in the open area next to the baseball diamond.

CIIC staff noted that African-American inmates and Caucasian inmates did not engage in activities together. Although the recreation staff denied that the recreation yard was segregated, it was obvious that the inmates separated themselves from each other.

The indoor recreation facilities consisted of a full-length basketball court, workout room with stationary bikes, and a band room. The facility was empty because of the nice weather. However, one inmate was in the band room playing his guitar.

### **Conclusion**

Although the atmosphere was relaxed and calm, some inmates voiced concerns. One inmate expressed concern regarding the confiscation of his personal property. According to the inmate, a Correctional Officer allegedly confiscated 40 cigars without reason. According to the inmate, the Officer did not issue a conduct report or provide an explanation as to why the cigars were being confiscated. The inmate also reported that the Officer allegedly tried coercing his cellie into writing a statement that the inmate tried to attack the Officer on the day the cigars were confiscated. The inmate stated that he documented the incident in an informal complaint and later in a grievance. The inmate had a proof of purchase for the items that were confiscated. Another inmate made allegations that an Officer confiscated personal items and later gave them to other inmates. CIIC staff notified the Warden in the closing discussion at the end of the inspection.

Most comments from the inmates regarding staff were positive. One inmate's comments in particular were especially significant, citing two staff as the reason for his major turnaround. It is encouraging to see inmates openly discuss how a program and/or staff have had a positive effect on their life. Although programs are in place at nearly every institution, the encounter with the above referenced inmates demonstrated the tremendous positive difference that can be made by staff.