

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE
INSPECTION OF THE HOCKING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

INSTITUTION: Hocking Correctional Facility

DATE OF INSPECTION: February 23, 2004

TYPE OF INSPECTION: Unannounced

CIIC MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT: Representative Todd Book
Shirley Pope, Director
Elizabeth Curtis, Inspector
Gregory Geisler, Inspector
Adam Jackson, Inspector

INSTITUTION STAFF PRESENT: Jerry Tolson, Warden's Administrative Assistant/Investigator was present during the entire inspection. Additional staff were met at their respective work areas within the institution including but not limited to: Kevin Bryan, Unit Manager; George Grim, Guidance Counselor, June Penny, Guidance Counselor; Terri Green, Health Care Administrator; Deborah Spencer, Teacher; Mark Schiller, Horticultural Program Coordinator; Jack Fain, Teacher; Dave Rickard, Psychology Assistant; Robin Chuvalas, Personnel Director; Michael Looney, Activity Therapist; Jerry Luckey, Recreation Therapist; and Bill Cooley, Corrections Officer.

AREA/ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN INSPECTION:

Entry Building	Housing Areas
Segregation Unit	Indoor/Outdoor Recreation
Entry/Exit Meeting with Administration	Library
Food Services	Chapel
Visiting Room	Canine Companions
Medical Services and Infirmary	Pound Rescue
Literacy Unit	Adult Basic Education Program
Vocational Unit: Horticulture	

ATTENDANCE AT REHABILITATIVE OR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Literacy Unit	Vocational Unit: Horticulture
Canine Companions	Pound Rescue

ATTENDANCE AT GENERAL MEAL PERIOD

The CIIC ate lunch in the inmate dining room. The lunch meal consisted of beef and ground turkey mix, white rice, cold broccoli in cream sauce, peaches, bread, and butter.

FINDINGS

INSTITUTION OVERVIEW:

According to written information provided on site, the Hocking Correctional Facility accepted its first load of inmates on April 18, 1983. The original structure was built in 1955 and in 1983 the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction used staff and inmate labor to convert the building to meet prison standards. The original design capacity of the facility was 205. The population on the day of the inspection was reported to be 454. HCF was accredited by the American Correctional Association on August 2, 1993 and was re-accredited most recently in 2003.

Mission

The distinctive mission of the Hocking Correctional Facility (HCF) is, “to provide rehabilitative programming in a safe and secure environment for the aging offender.” Per the HCF website, the facility is “to provide a safe and secure environment and rehabilitative programming for a diverse population, emphasizing older adults, through quality partnerships and holistic service.” HCF has been termed “a geriatric prison.” The average age of the HCF population is 63 years old.

Design

HCF is a three story open dormitory style facility, consisting of two large dormitory units which house 201 inmates each, and a 48 bed unit that houses ADA inmates, that is, those with disabilities, who are also minimum security (Level One) inmates. The facility has two buildings within the three acre compound and three buildings on 15.3 acres outside of the fence. In 2001 the Boot Camp in Glouster, Ohio was completed.

Budget

The institution had an annual operating budget of \$12,224,104 for FY 2004. The annual cost per inmate is \$26,989.16 with a daily cost of \$73.12.

Staff

HCF has a total staff of 156 with 87 security staff. According to the HCF Fact Book provided on site, as of February 1, 2004, HCF staff totaled 157 with 75 security staff. The racial and gender breakdown of the employees is as follows:

	White		Total	Black		Total	Other		Total	Total HCF Staff
	Men	Women	White	Men	Women	Black	Men	Women	Other	Number
#	89	43	132	10	8	18	6	1	7	157
%	57%	30%	84%	6%	5%	12%	4%	1%	5%	100%

The HCF staff were very professional and courteous during the inspection. In fact, one of the numerous positives noted on site, was the caliber of staff that are working in the facility.

Staff relayed that there are no staff vacancies, and some commented that the budget cuts did not appear to have a major affect on HCF. However, some staff relayed that “staff always fear closure”, that is, staff were fearful that due to further budget cuts, HCF might be chosen for closure. HCF reportedly has a low staff turnover rate.

Although the large dormitories had one Officer assigned to 200 inmates, staff relayed that the staff/inmate ratio is acceptable. It was noted that the older age of the inmate population, and the level one and two security levels of the inmate population at HCF, are relevant factors in that regard. As noted elsewhere in this report, certainly the Officers assigned to the dormitories expressed no concerns, and relayed no need for additional staff in the housing areas.

Inmate Population

On the day of the inspection, the total population was 454, with 443 “in house.” The institution is a Level One (formerly minimum security) and Level Two (formerly medium security) facility. However, HCF reportedly has one Level Three inmate. The level breakdown on the day of the inspection is provided below:

CLASSIFICATION LEVEL	NUMBER	PERCENT
Level One A	8	
Level One B	298	
SUBTOTAL	306	67.4%
Level Two	147	32.3%
Level Three	1	.2
TOTAL	454	100.0%

The racial breakdown of the inmate population on the day of the inspection consisted of 339 White inmates comprising 74.7%, 106 Black inmates comprising 23.3%, eight “Other” inmates comprising 1.8%, and one Asian inmate comprising .2%.

Staff relayed that over 70 percent of the HCF inmates are over age 60, and 94 percent are over the age of 50. Staff also noted that due in part to the age of HCF inmates, some have no family to take them in on their release, so staff seek a nursing home placement for them.

It was also relayed that 70 percent of the inmates at HCF are sex offenders. Sex offender programming is reportedly offered.

Staff noted that when the Orient Correctional Institution closed, 40 medical level two inmates were transferred to HCF. Some of the inmates have Dementia and Alzheimer’s.

According to HCF staff, such inmates are assigned an inmate helper, and staff try to keep them functioning at HCF.

One Officer relayed during the inspection that HCF is “like no other institution in the State – No gangs, and they get along well. It’s much different than most camps.” Other HCF staff throughout the facility made similar comments. Inmates were termed “well-behaved” by Officers, and there was evidence of respect and trustworthiness among the inmates. It is the first prison in Ohio in which an inmate boasted that he has never locked his locker box in five years at HCF, yet has never had anything stolen. Further, in the housing areas, “free letters” (envelopes that can be mailed postage free) were available for the taking. Staff relayed that the inmates are permitted to take one “free letter” per week, and they abide by the limit per the honor system.

ENTRY BUILDING

The entry building was clean and orderly. An inmate was busy waxing the floors while supervised by staff. The CIIC group members were thoroughly screened. Jackets were required to be removed, pockets and CIIC identification were checked, and screening was conducted via metal detector. The Officer was very cordial, thorough and courteous. Security practices were observed as very good.

VISITING

The Visiting area consists of a very small room. However, staff relayed that the space is adequate to meet the needs. That is, inmates at HCF reportedly receive very few visitors. The visiting room was empty at the time of the inspection. It was well maintained and very clean.

INSTITUTION GROUNDS

The grounds appeared small, with basic landscaping, including a small garden around a flagpole. The area was clean and free of debris. No inmate movement or security staff were observed.

FOOD SERVICES

The kitchen, serving line, dining room, dry storage and freezer unit were observed during the general meal period. It was reported that 89 inmates are assigned to Food Services, with 44 workers on the first shift and 35 workers on second shift. Inmate workers in the kitchen were properly wearing hairnets or hats. However, some inmates preparing food were not wearing gloves. The kitchen area appeared adequately clean. The dry storage and large freezer storage areas were clean, organized and had a “good smell.” Inmates were observed washing pans immediately after their use and also mopping the floors. Inmate workers in the kitchen were also busy working with frozen corn dogs and burgers, beginning preparation for the next meal.

The inmate dining room has a reported seating capacity of 98. Food Services staff noted that it takes approximately an hour to feed the inmate population. Reportedly, 98 inmates are fed at a time. Inmates in wheelchairs are fed first, and other inmates are served in order of arrival. Inmates who are “feeble” or unable to hold their tray, take a seat at a table and a tray is brought to them. Inmates were orderly and relaxed during the general meal period. The inmates lined up near a wall in an organized fashion. All servers were wearing gloves and hairnets or hats.

The lunch meal consisted of beef and ground turkey mix, gravy, white rice, cold broccoli in cream sauce, peaches, three slices of bread, and butter. Inmates voiced differing opinions of the food. Some stated that the food was “fine,” while others alleged that there is often a deviation from the menu. Based on the meal served on the day of the inspection, the portions appeared to be adequate and the content was nutritious. Food Services Staff relayed that a meat substitute meal is available. The Food Services Supervisor relayed that staff receive very few complaints about Food Services. It was further noted that during the holidays, inmates have kited Food Services staff “saying how good the meal was.”

Certain inmates are issued a diet pass for meals from a menu approved by a Dietician. Food Services staff showed the CIIC group an example of a diet pass, briefly borrowed from an inmate in the dining room. On the day of the inspection, approximately 260 inmates were on special diets. Food Services staff relayed that inmates are educated on how to follow these special diets. However, it is up to the inmate to follow the recommendations. According to the Food Services Staff, the majority of the inmates do not follow their special diets.

An Officer in Food Services spoke of how much he liked working at HCF, and liked supervising HCF inmates. In regard to HCF inmates, he commented, “They’re good.”

SEGREGATION

The small Segregation Unit at HCF consists of six regular segregation cells and one crisis cell. The regular segregation cells were occupied with one inmate per cell. Of the six inmates, four were in Security Control, and one each was in Disciplinary Control and Local Control. The cells were clean. A window enables direct observation by staff. Books and hygiene products were observed in the cells. One security staff member was assigned to segregation. It was relayed that , a security staff person delivers the meals to the inmates in segregation.

The inmates in segregation were quiet and reserved. One of the inmates in Security Control status stated that he was waiting for his conduct report to be heard. He stated that he made a disrespectful gesture to another inmate, but he was reportedly mistakenly accused of making the gesture to a staff person. Another inmate stated that he was charged with escape from the Madison Correctional Institution.

According to staff, mental health staff visit segregation daily. In addition, the nursing staff reportedly visit once each shift. Further, the Inspector visits weekly or in response to any inmate request. It was also relayed that the library is available daily to those in segregation.

During the inspection, some inmates urged CIIC to go to the Segregation Unit. However, no specific information was relayed as to particular concerns, and no such concerns were observed or expressed.

GENERAL POPULATION HOUSING

The CIIC observed three general population housing areas. Two of the dorms averaged approximately 200 inmates per dorm. The dorms were non-smoking. On the day of the inspection, each unit housed 203 inmates.

There was one Officer assigned to each dorm. Officers relayed no staff issues or concerns. One Officer commented that he is “bored most of the time.” The inmates were described as “well-behaved”, elderly and “laid back,” and if any trouble or problem occurred, help is reported to be “immediately available”. Further, it was relayed that Relief Officers come around to the dorms to check on the Dorm Officers.

The noise level was moderate. The inmates seemed calm and relaxed, as well as positive and upbeat. The environment was very relaxed, with not much activity. The dorm areas were clean and orderly. It was relayed that blankets are washed two times per month. Beds were in an open dormitory setting, all double bunks. A significant amount of inmate movement was observed in the dorms. The showers were all in working order and clean. Washers, dryers and ironing supplies were accessible. It was noted that there are no personal inmate televisions due to poor TV reception in the area.

B Dorm housed the inmates who participate in the Pound Rescue Program located in the back of the dorm. The area was also visited, which included puppies from Animal Rescue. There were only three dogs currently in the dorm. The inmates assigned to them were very proud to be a part of the program.

The Literacy Unit was observed in C Dorm. (See Literacy Unit subsection).

A Dorm was smaller with only 31 inmates who are classified as Level One and who are paraplegics. One of the inmates noted that those in the dorm are not permitted to have a personal television.

The Canine Companions program was housed in A Dorm. It was relayed that one of the Golden Retrievers knows over 50 commands and makes special visits to nursing homes. The inmate participants appeared to be very proud and grateful for the privilege of being part of the program. One inmate showed the CIIC group his booklet on the program, and also his Completion of Apprenticeship. Inmate dog handlers relayed that the dog program for the handicapped began in August of 2002. It was also relayed that the dogs are a mix

of Lab and Retriever, so that they have the intelligence of a Lab and the easy temperament of a Retriever. One inmate dog handler stated the program is “good for the guys.”

The dorms included a kite and free letterbox. What was considered unique, is that the free letters, that is, envelopes that may be mailed without postage, are available for the taking on a “trust/honor system.” Inmates are permitted to have one “free letter” per week, which are mailed on Tuesdays. Officers relayed that inmates know that they are permitted one free letter per week, and they do not take advantage of the honor system.

Overall, one of the numerous positive aspects of HCF observed in the inspection, is the relaxed, safe environment that appears to have been created. The inmate comment mentioned earlier is certainly reflective of the relaxed, safe environment. The inmate stated that he has been at HCF for five years, has never locked his locker box, and never had any item stolen.

PROGRAMS:

According to the HCF Fact Book of 2004, the following programs are provided within the housing units:

1. **Keeping Abreast** provides the opportunity to read and discuss newspapers and magazine articles. It allows inmates to keep up on current events, etc. changes in technology and American culture.
2. **Chair Aerobics** provides a structured exercise program for inmates who are physically disabled and would otherwise not be able to participate in an exercise routine. This program assists the inmate in maintaining and/or improving their physical health.
3. **It's Never Too Late** targets the inmate population that has little to no exercise in the past by providing a structured exercise program that teaches the basics of aerobic exercise. It starts at a slow pace and advances forward as the participating inmate's physical stamina increases.
4. **Advanced Aerobics** is designed for the physically fit inmate. It starts at a fast pace and works through the concept of aerobic exercise.
5. **Beginning Spanish** teaches inmates cultural awareness and basic Spanish.
6. **Cage Your Rage** teaches inmates to express their anger in appropriate ways. The program also uses the art of rational thinking and “bursting” irrational behavior.
7. **Living Live Beyond Loss** teaches the offender to look at loss of control issues. Offenders should feel that they could manage and resolve old feelings that may still be in their life because of prior situations.
8. **Action, Communication and Tolerance** helps inmates to identify negative behaviors that contributed to their prison term and how to make changes. Also, the offenders look at the impact their crimes had on the victim, their family, and themselves. The program is designed for family healing.
9. **Days Gone By** assists inmates in writing a journal of the positive aspects of their life. On completion, the inmate gives it to a selected child or grandchild with prior

approval. This program is designed to promote family healing and to build self-esteem.

- 10. Vietnam Veterans** assists veterans in upgrading their discharge and setting up benefits upon completion of their sentence. This group often provides community service by making monetary donations to various charities in the area.

MEDICAL SERVICES

In general discussion with non-medical staff, it was relayed that challenges at HCF include many medical round trips, which stem from the fact that they have an older inmate population. Staff on site relayed that the average age of their inmate population is 63, and that 70 percent of their population are over the age of 60, with a total of approximately 450 inmates. The age of the population likely has a significant impact on the Medical Services Department at HCF.

According to the HCF Fact Book of 2004, most inmates at HCF are chronic care inmates. It was reported that because of the older offender population, they provide chronic care clinics for the majority of inmates at the facility. Chronic care inmates are seen every three months.

Because many inmates cannot walk long distances, services are confined in a condensed area to better meet their needs. HCF uses state of the art telemedicine allowing them to provide services with specialists at OSU Hospital. This practice cuts down on, but does not eliminate, the need to transport inmates for long distances. Medical Services provide patients with instruction related to chronic health problems, such as diets, proper methods of taking medication, foot care and exercise.

The Medical Services area includes a six-bed infirmary, a waiting area, pill call area, Tele-med room, and a Doctor's Sick Call exam room. All areas were clean, sanitary and well organized.

There are eight nurses on staff, all Registered Nurses. Three are assigned to first shift, three are assigned to the second shift, and two are assigned to the third shift. HCF has no contract nurses. It was relayed that the medical staff would soon add one new Quality Assurance position and two new Nurses. The medical staff were professional and courteous. It was relayed by medical staff that they feel good about the staffing and are working on obtaining new equipment for the Medical Department. Staff noted that they have ordered a "new gurney."

According to staff on site, the Doctor is available from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM, four days per week. Staff relayed that sick call is available daily, that they may sign up for sick call any time, and that most inmates are able to see the Doctor the following day.

Staff relayed that some inmates refuse medical trips to CMC because they are shackled and restrained from HCF to the Southeastern Correctional Institution to CMC, up to a two and one half hour ride. Reportedly, it is a "long, hard trip,"

followed by waiting on a bench at CMC. Staff noted that they have a wheelchair van and inmates are strapped in during transport.

DENTAL SERVICES

At the time of the inspection, it was relayed that a contract Dentist provided Dental Services at HCF. Some problems with scheduling reportedly occurred due to the fact that they were in between Dentists. It was relayed that they recently had a one to two week period with no Dentist.

RECOVERY SERVICES

The following Recovery Services programs are available, per the HCF Fact Book of 2004:

1. **Seeking a New Direction (S.A.N.D.)** is an intensive outpatient program consisting of 300 hours of group work, including multi-week segments dealing with issues in emotional and behavioral conditions, treatment resistance, relapse potential and recovery environment.
2. **S.A.N.D. Aftercare** is a weekly program offered to graduates of the S.A.N.D. program to assure continued focus on recovery from chemical addiction. The length of this group is open-ended and must be attended by inmates for continued earned credit.
3. **Relapse Prevention Counseling** is a group of 24 hours of group work. The basis of the group is the CENAPS Model of Relapse, along with additional sources of recovery material. It provides the inmate with an opportunity to develop a relapse plan for re-entry into society.
4. **Step Counseling** is a counseling group consisting of 30 hours of group work. The program consists of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous with a psycho-educational emphasis.
5. **Stepping to Freedom** is a Twelve Step working group that meets monthly for two hours to discuss each individual's progress in working the Twelve Step Program on AA/NA in their personal life. This program is open-ended to allow each individual to proceed at his own pace.
6. **Drug Awareness Education** consists of a six week course that covers the different classifications of drugs and their affects on the human body. The program meets every two weeks for one and one half hour per session. It is open to all inmates.
7. **Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous Big Book Programs** are self help-groups facilitated by Recovery Services staff. They provide information about alcoholism and drug abuse through the study of the Big Book of AA/NA. Each group is limited to twelve participants.
8. **Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship meeting that addresses addictions to alcohol and/or drugs. It is open to all inmates.

9. **Commitment to Change** is a 21 week course dedicated to the cognitive behavioral theory. It meets one time per week for one and one half hour. The program is divided into two sections, both which deal with thinking errors.
10. **Life Without a Crutch** is a nine week course that helps inmates to become aware of the possibility that they may have a problem dealing with alcohol or drugs. The program also serves as a mandatory drug program for those inmates that submit a positive urine test.
11. **Stopping for Life** is a nine week smoking cessation program that uses the cognitive behavioral model. The program meets weekly for one and one half hour.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health staff at HCF include a Psychiatrist, Psychologist, and Psychiatric Nurse. According to the HCF Fact Book of 2004, the following mental health programs are available:

1. **Reminiscence Group** is a support group that offers support for those with cognitive impairment.
2. **Medication Education** is a psycho-educational group for those individuals whose medication compliance falls below 80%. The group is held on an as needed basis, to discuss the effects of medication, medication compliance, medication side effects, and the individual's responsibilities and participation in treatment.
3. **Successful Aging Group** is a weekly group for those interested in developing a positive outlook on aging through engagement in meaningful and healthy activities.
4. **Associate Aide Program** is designed to supervise and train inmates that are assigned as aides. The aides assist those individuals on the mental health caseload with cognitive difficulties and require assistance in getting to the medication line, dining hall, or ambulating around the facility, if they are not oriented.
5. **Medication Compliance Program** stresses the importance of full medication compliance and the benefits that compliance will bring are individually emphasized with those whose medication compliance falls below 80%.
6. **Straight Thinking Group** is a weekly group focused on awareness, detection and correction of cognitive distortions that disrupt relationships and affect living.
7. **Phoenix Group** is a weekly group that addresses the concerns of sexual offenders including the identification of sexual abuse patterns, high risk situations, triggers, thinking errors and the development of a relapse plan.
8. **Community Service Project** is a weekly group in which participants are preparing materials for the Athens Crisis Pregnancy Center.
9. **Men and Depression Group** is a weekly psycho-educational group for those with a clinical diagnosis of one of the depressive mood disorders and are seeking adjunctive non-medicinal interventions.
10. **Coping With Anxiety Group** is a weekly psycho-educational group for those experiencing symptoms of anxiety and seeking adjunctive non-medicinal interventions.

11. **Therapeutic Activity** includes those activities in which an individual on the mental health caseload participates in the institution and from which the individual derives significant therapeutic effects. The activity, such as horticulture, and its effects on the individual, are monitored.

LIBRARY

The library and law library were clean and appeared to be at full capacity. The DRC Policies were accessible, including the 300 section, but appropriately excluding the security sections. Staff relayed that all texts and supplements are up to date. Staff noted that if they were able to put the Ohio Revised Code on CD, it would save space. Staff relayed that they want to do whatever they can to save space, because the library is small and fully used by the inmates.

The CIIC memo was prominently posted on a window in the library, easily observable to anyone who visits the library.

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Based on written information provided by the HCF staff, the following educational programs are available to inmates:

1. **Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Pre-GED** – These students have English, Reading, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Character Development classes.
2. **General Equivalency Diploma (GED)** – This program provides students with knowledge equivalent to a High School Diploma.
3. **Vocational Building Maintenance Program** – The program provides 720 hours of instruction and take approximately one year to complete. The program includes: Custodial Maintenance, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, Construction Principles, and Horticulture
4. **Hocking College Culinary Arts** – Students learn food preparation from professional chefs.

Literacy Unit

The Adult Basic Education/Literacy Unit in C Dorm was included in the inspection. One Teacher was present, though an inmate assistant addressed and directed the class. The inmate handed out text materials, administered math assessment tests, addressed the class with, “When I give you homework...” and from all appearances, assumed the role of teacher. In the exit discussion with administrative staff, concerns were relayed regarding the inmate assistant who appeared to be in charge of and teaching the ABE class. In subsequent communication with administrative staff, follow-up to address the concerns regarding the role of the inmate worker was assured.

The ABE class was small, with only eight inmate students present. The Teacher noted that there are 40 inmates involved in the education program, and each inmate may choose if they want to attend a classroom setting with the Teacher, or acquire one of the 10 tutors. It was noted that some students have problems with their eyesight. The classes are held two times per day, in the morning from 8:00 am to 10:30 am, and in the afternoon from 1:00 pm to 3:00. It was reported that there are 13 in the morning ABE class, and nine students in the ABE afternoon class. The curriculum includes Math, Language, Spelling, and computer work. The materials used in the classroom were considered by the Teacher to be adequate, though those observed were somewhat outdated. Books range from kindergarten level through the 8th grade. Further, the Teacher may obtain materials from the Internet.

Three Program Aides were observed working on computers, making new bunk cards and re-entry initiative assessment sheets.

Horticulture Program

The Vocational area housed shared space for both the Horticulture and Vocational Maintenance areas. According to the discussion with the Horticulture Program Coordinator, the Horticulture Program takes 720 hours to complete. Participants devote four and one half hours per day to the program, with time credited for homework outside of the classroom. Only 12 inmates were enrolled in Horticulture at the time of the inspection. The Program Coordinator relayed that three inmates were on the waiting list. It was also relayed that a greenhouse will be operational in May 2004. At the time of the inspection, the plant life in the program consisted solely of six poinsettias.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Programs provide inmates with work skills. Inmate participants shadow a mentor in various occupational areas and allow inmates to complete requirements for a Certificate of Apprenticeship from the United States Department of Labor. Apprenticeships are available in the following areas:

Building Maintenance	Welding
Janitorial	Animal Trainer
Electrician	Baker
Heating and Air Conditioning	Cooking

COMMUNITY SERVICE

According to information provided on the ODRC website, the Hocking Correctional Facility had a projected yearly total of 89,394 hours of Community Service. As of February 23, 2004, HCF completed nine percent of the projected total, with 8,181

Community Service hours already completed. The following Community Service Projects are cited in the HCF Fact Book of 2004:

1. **Canine Companions** permits inmate dog handlers to care for a dog within their living area. The dog handler is responsible for the training and care of the dog. The dogs in the Canine Companion Program eventually become service dogs for the wheelchair bound and for the hearing impaired.
2. **Pound Rescue** also permits inmate dog handlers to house a dog within their living area. The dog handler is responsible for providing obedience training and for housebreaking the dog. The goal of the program is to groom the pet for adoption.
3. **General and Ground Maintenance** for local schools, at the County Fairgrounds, and for the Ohio State Highway Patrol.
4. **Crayons to Computers** participation, by making flashcards.
5. **Pet Therapy Program** in area nursing homes.
6. **MADD** participation by cutting ribbons.

RECREATION

A visit to the recreation department began with observation of the West Gym. The Gym is equipped with five universal machines, and all were in use at the time of the inspection. The arcade is equipped with two tables where inmates were playing cards. The following recreation programs or activities were observed: Arts and Crafts, Music Groups including an organ and acoustical guitar, Weight Cage with weight machines, pool tables, wiffle ball, horseshoes, shuffle board, basketball, stationary bicycle, putt-putt golf, bingo and volleyball.

Recreation is reported to be ongoing from 8 AM to 8 PM. Inmates are permitted in the weight cage up to three hours each week, and must log in each time the weight cage is used. A recreation schedule with weekly activities, time, and location is posted in the main recreation center.

An inmate recreation worker relayed that his job is to issue equipment and see that it is returned. Some members of the CIIC group understood the worker to have the title "Clerk," and noted that he was alone in his office, with no staff supervision.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

The inspection included the Chapel. Multiple faiths, including Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Islamic are accommodated for inmates. Staff noted that they have one Chaplain, an Imam on contract, and also use volunteers. Grief counseling is also available for inmates requiring or requesting the service.

INMATE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

According to grievance statistics from the Inspector's monthly reports for October 2003 through January 2004, there were only six grievances filed during the period. There were three grievances in the Health Care category, and one grievance each pertaining to Dental Care, Commissary, and Force/Supervision.

According to the Inspector's reports, all of six grievances were reported to be "Unresolved." The monthly reports also show that in the four month period, three grievances were filed in October, one in November, two in December, and none in January.

Grievance Category	October	November	December	January	Total
Health Care	2	1	0	0	3
Dental Care	0	0	1	0	1
Commissary	1	0	0	0	1
Force/Supervision	0	0	1	0	1
Total	3	1	2	0	6
UNRESOLVED	3	1	2	0	6
RESOLVED	0	0	0	0	0

During the same period of October 2003 through January 2004, a total of 2,274 grievances were filed in the entire prison system, ranging from no grievances at the Dayton Correctional Institution to 180 grievances at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility. There were six grievances filed at the Hocking Correctional Facility, North Coast Treatment Facility, and Oakwood Correctional Facility. There are 28 prisons with more grievances filed than HCF, from 10 grievances at the Montgomery Education and Pre-Release Center to 180 grievances at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

Grievance statistics for February through June of 2004 were also reviewed. During the five-month period, only two grievances were filed at HCF. The two grievances pertained to Health Care and Visiting.

Grievance Category	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Health Care	1	0	0	0	0	1
Visiting	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1	0	0	0	1	2
UNRESOLVED	1	0	0	0	1	2
RESOLVED	0	0	0	0	0	0

In the same period of February 2004 through June of 2004, a total of 2,567 grievances were filed in the entire prison system. The two grievances filed at HCF in the period is the lowest number filed of any institution in the entire prison system in the period. Grievances filed at the other institutions range from three at the Oakwood Correctional Facility to 280 grievances at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

According to HCF staff comments, the low number of grievances filed at the facility is due to the fact that staff and inmates attempt to solve problems informally, including discussing the problem and coming to a reasonable and acceptable agreement, with a focus on good communication. According to staff comments, most inmates are satisfied with the grievance procedure. In fact, the low number of grievances could be a positive indicator, reflective of attention to operations and conditions.

However, a low number of grievances can also be an indicator that inmates have no confidence that the problem will be resolved through use of the grievance procedure, or that inmates do not use the grievance procedure due to fear of retaliation for complaining. Some of the inmate communication on site regarding the grievance procedure tended to reflect one inmate's comment that the procedure is reportedly "a joke," rather than a process to ensure that one's problem is investigated and if warranted, addressed. Of three inmates at a table, only one stated that he ever filed a grievance, and it was reportedly "years ago and did no good."

One inmate relayed that he did not feel that he could be open about the grievance procedure since HCF staff were nearby. One inmate stated that, "This place is small. If you file a grievance or complain, you get labeled as a troublemaker. They give you trouble." Some inmates relayed their perception and belief that those who file grievances end up in segregation in retaliation. Most with that perception stated that they had never used the grievance procedure, but had been told that by other inmates. Although the Administrative Rule on the Grievance Procedure prohibits reprisals for good faith use of the grievance procedure, the Administrative Rule directs inmates to file another grievance to report any incidents of such alleged reprisals. Based on communication from throughout the prison system, inmates are reluctant to use the grievance procedure again to report a reprisal, after already experiencing what they believe was a clear reprisal. Even when reported, reprisals are regarded as difficult if not impossible to prove.

Inmates even relayed fear of contacting the CIIC regarding concerns. One inmate stated that, "Guys won't relay problems. They fear retaliation." When told that they can request confidentiality in letters to the CIIC, he responded, "It would have to be that way." Several inmates claimed that an inmate had recently spoken about concerns to an outside group who visited the facility for a program. The inmate was reportedly "put in the hole." The incident was unverifiable due to lack of specific information.

It is recommended that the Inspector develop and implement ways to dispel the inmate perception that use of the grievance procedure will result in retaliation.

CIIC CONTACTS AND CONCERNS

From January 6, 2004 through August 10, 2004, the CIIC has received 14 contacts from or in regard to the Hocking Correctional Facility. The CIIC also received 14 contacts from or in regard to the Correctional Reception Center (CRC). The 14 contacts comprise 1.2% of the 1,123 CIIC contacts from throughout the prison system.

Eleven other prisons had fewer contacts with the CIIC than HCF and CRC. More contacts than HCF or CRC were received from 21 other prisons, ranging from 22 contacts from Ross and Richland Correctional Institutions, to 185 contacts from or in regard to the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

The number of reported concerns or problems relayed to the CIIC from or in regard to the Hocking Correctional Facility totaled 31. Most of the concerns were in the Health Care category. Fewer concerns were reported from eight other prisons. The number of reported concerns from throughout the prison system ranged from one concern each at the Dayton Correctional Institution and Northeast Pre-Release Center, to 546 reported concerns from or in regard to the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

Eight prisons had fewer concerns than HCF, ranging from no concerns from the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center and Montgomery Education and Pre-Release Center, to 20 concerns from or in regard to the North Coast Correctional Treatment Facility. There are 25 other prisons with a larger volume of concerns than HCF, ranging from 33 reported concerns from Richland Correctional Institution, to 546 reported concerns from or in regard to the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

Based on the CIIC Database from January 6, 2004 through August 10, 2004, the subject categories of the 31 reported concerns from or in regard to the Hocking Correctional Facility are as follows:

AREA OF CONCERN	NUMBER OF REPORTED CONCERNS
Health Care	8
Force/Supervision	5
Job Assignment	3
Inmate Grievance Procedure	3
Food Service	2
Personal Property	2
Discrimination	2
Safety and Sanitation	1
Facilities Maintenance	1
Visiting	1
Institution Assignment	1
Housing Assignment	1
Other	1
TOTAL	31