



Lebanon Correctional Institution Follow-Up

July 12, 2012

Joanna E. Saul,
Report Coordinator

**CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT
ON THE FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF
LEBANON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

Date of Inspection:	July 12, 2012
Type of Inspection:	Announced
CIIC Staff Present:	Joanna E. Saul, Director Darin Furderer, Inspector Kayla Kilar, CIIC Intern Michelle Kaiser, Intern for State Representative Tracy Heard
Facility Staff Present:	Warden Tim Brunsman Deputy Warden Chae Harris Deputy Warden Thomas Schweitzer Major Benjamin Dunn

Follow-Up Inspection Overview:

Overall, CIIC believes that the institution has made progress since the June 2011 inspection. Facility conditions, which will always be an issue at LECI due to the age of the facility and the overcrowded population, have visibly improved; specifically, maintenance concerns appeared to be reduced. Staff relayed several initiatives to combat roaches, which reportedly have been an issue since the facility opened.

CIIC also noted indications of a positive paradigm shift within the institution. Whereas several staff called LECI a “disciplinary camp” during the 2011 inspection, executive staff have implemented several initiatives that will hopefully move the prison beyond this model, including incentives for positive behavior as part of the DRC’s “three tier reorganization.” In addition, LECI has formed an inmate advisory council, composed of representatives from each housing unit, to better address inmate concerns and improve communication between staff and inmates.

The June 2011 CIIC inspection of LECI raised four primary concerns in the following areas: (1) pest/insect infestation; (2) facility conditions; (3) use of force; and (4) lack of incentives. The follow-up inspection addressed these four issues only and did not attempt a full facility inspection. Each concern is broken down into the following areas:

- description of the concern identified during the 2011 inspection,
- the DRC’s response to the 2011 inspection report, as provided by institutional staff,
- CIIC’s action plan as part of its 2012 follow-up inspection, and
- the CIIC findings from the 2012 follow-up inspection.

2011 CIIC Concern: Pest/Insect Infestation

Of the 85 inmates interviewed during the inspection, 15 (17.6%) were documented as stating that roaches were a primary issue of concern. Inmates also relayed that mice, rats, and ants are a problem at the institution. The CIIC inspection team personally observed both roaches and gnats during the inspection of the housing units, particularly in K Block.

2011 DRC Response

- LeCI agrees that housing inmates in a pest infested environment is not conducive to the inmate's rehabilitation. However, in the past year LeCI has spent \$18,381.00 on extermination to address the pest infestation. The contract with the extermination company is up for renewal and LeCI has requested that it be changed to become more effective. We are making strides in this area, as stated by several employees, it is getting better but there is always room for improvement.

2012 CIIC Follow-Up Inspection

- Interview inmates in four housing units to determine whether inmates continue to report roach/pest infestation.
- LECI staff provided information on site regarding extermination efforts.

2012 CIIC Findings

- CIIC found that a handful of inmates in B and J blocks independently reported that roaches were a concern. However, CIIC staff perceived the issue to be less frequently reported than in the prior year. Furthermore, CIIC did not see any roaches while on the units.
- Staff provided documentation regarding their efforts at roach control. Staff relayed that an extermination company provides weekly visits to the institution and that they have expanded to also provide extra quarterly visits.
- In addition, the extermination company has expanded placement of roach bait, both exterminating in the cell blocks and placing bait in the tunnels underneath the prison to provide a two-pronged attack. The documentation indicated that extermination staff would spend a greater amount of time on individual units to fully cover the area, that a new insecticide was in use on the units with a longer residual (effectiveness) time, and that new bait was being used in the tunnels.

2011 CIIC Concern: Facility Conditions

Poor facility conditions were a primary issue of concern relayed by both inmates and staff. The floor of the dining hall was full of holes, and the tiles were either missing or broken. There was a significant amount of crumbling of the ceilings, walls, and floors in the shower stalls. Several showers were running constantly and the shower stalls themselves were grimy. The paint was scratched off the tables in the main area of the blocks. There was standing water on A, C, and R Blocks. Multiple units had condemned cells that could not be utilized by inmates until fixed.

2011 DRC Response

- Since 1958 the institution maintenance department and outside contractors have been maintaining a building that houses inmates and staff, numbering over 3000. With this amount of use from individuals, maintenance issues will arise. The LeCI maintenance department is on a continuous rotation when it comes to painting, repairing walls, repairing plumbing and maintaining other area of the facility. Currently there is an ongoing shower project, refurbishing the showers. This project has been successful in 2 housing units. Plumbing has been an ongoing issue and is addressed as quickly as possible. LeCI has recently received news that the dining hall floor may be able to be replaced after the kitchen project is completed. Until that time we will continue to repair the kitchen floor as needed to insure tripping and other hazards will not escalate. AC units/cooler units, in the new kitchen, were repaired before Ms. Saul left on Thursday. These items are under contract and have to be repaired by the manufactures maintenance personnel.

2012 CIIC Follow-Up Inspection

- Inspect four housing units (B, D, G, and J blocks), selected at random.

2012 CIIC Findings

- CIIC found that the shower project is ongoing and that the renovated showers appeared well-done. CIIC found that most of the showers appeared clean.
- CIIC found that facility conditions were drastically improved in B, D, and G Blocks. J Block remains in poor condition; staff relayed that it would be repainted in the near future. Staff relayed that they have added a third shift inmate cleaning crew and a third shift inmate painter.
- CIIC staff did not observe any puddles of water on the floors of the inspected blocks. Zero toilets, sinks, and showers were reported as being out of order in the four inspected blocks on the day of the inspection.
- Two of the three dining halls have recently been repainted and a new serving line was added.

2011 CIIC Concern: Use of Force

Lebanon Correctional Institution routinely reports the highest number of uses of force across the DRC. From November 2010 through April 2011, the institution reported 508 uses of force to CIIC, which is 68% higher than the institution reporting the second-highest number of uses of force, the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, and 2.5 times the number of uses of force at the next-highest Level 3 institution, Mansfield Correctional Institution.

2011 DRC Response

- As reported from December 15, 2010 – June 15, 2011, LeCI reported 501 Use of Force's to the CIIC. In our opinion, the high number of Use of Force's is partly accredited to the 189% capacity of the institution. LeCI is the highest capacity institution in the state, barring the two reception centers. This high density population, of level 3 inmates, tends to lead to a tense atmosphere. The high number of Use of Force's has not resulted in a high percentage of staff or inmate injuries. Over 70% of the Use of Force's has been deemed "Slight." LeCI is a unique design, the entire institution is under one roof therefore, limiting access for outside movement. DRC is undergoing a departmental change to a three-tiered system that includes: Control Prisons, General Population Prisons and Reintegration Centers. LeCI is tentatively slated to be identified as a "Control Prison." DRC-Office of Prisons is acutely aware of the density issues at LeCI and other facilities. Significant efforts are being directed toward the goal and associated objectives of reducing prison violence in DRC.

2012 CIIC Follow-Up Inspection

- Review ten use of force packets from the previous quarter, selected at random, including three that were sent to a committee for further investigation.

2012 CIIC Findings

- CIIC found that all DRC policies and procedures related to use of force appeared to be followed. However, CIIC referred two incidents to executive staff for further review. CIIC also addressed a minor documentation issue on-site with staff.
- Staff relayed that the reported high number of uses of force was due to a difference in how the institution reported uses of force compared to other institutions. Staff demonstrated how the new reporting methodology reduces the institution's total number of uses of force.
- Staff also relayed a change in policy, in which supervisors must now be present prior to officers deploying OC spray when the inmate is behind a cell door, except for circumstances that require an immediate response.

2011 CIIC Concern: Lack of Incentives

In December 2010, the Warden implemented a modified lockdown/restricted movement schedule in order to increase safety and security and decrease the number of property thefts and fights.

2011 DRC Response

- When talking about the housing unit changes that took place in December 2010 the institution uses the words “control inmate movement” not modified lockdown. Modified lockdown is an inflammatory term the inmates use when trying to make this procedure sound harsher and get it removed. Warden Brunsman has not reduced the merit cells in the institution; this was done by Warden Ernie Moore, over 4 years ago. Warden Brunsman has discussed with several staff and inmates the ability and possible need for an additional merit block. However, we are still waiting to stabilize the institution from the new and upcoming changes to our mission as being named a control prison. Since the implementation of controlled inmate movement, the amount of inmates refusing to lock, property thefts and assaults have been reduced. Thus, making the inmates feel safer in this atmosphere.
- Recently LeCI issued a full set of whites to all inmates in general population. Each cell was issued a new trash can, as an incentive, to help inmates keep their cell clean and not throw trash out of the windows. LeCI encourages inmates to participate in approved groups such as the Jaycees, VVA, Real Men Crochet Club, ACO, etc; by participating in these groups inmates can suggest fundraisers and other activities which increase inmate morale. LeCI sponsors no less than 12 of these activities a year, which produces special food items for the inmates, in general population, to purchase along with money to be donated to charity organizations. From July 2010 through June 2011 the inmate groups donated \$35,674.97 to charities. LeCI also allows each inmate group to recognize their members, once a year, in a banquet style award ceremony. This gave inmates meaningful work in and out of their cells, in order to achieve this monumental feat. This included community service work for various organizations such as Crayons 2 Computers, numerous donations to homeless shelters and the Veterans Administration.

2012 CIIC Follow-Up Inspection

- Interviewed the Warden to hear about incentives and inmate idleness initiatives currently in place at LeCI.

2012 CIIC Findings

Incentives

- As part of the three tier reorganization that the DRC is implementing, LECI has established separate privilege levels for its Level 3 population. Level 3A inmates will have access to more dayroom activity time, more desirable jobs, access to more programs, higher commissary spending limits, and other privileges/incentives. This initiative intends to motivate inmates to engage in more positive behavior so that they can achieve and maintain the higher privilege level status.
- Staff also relayed that they are exploring the possibility of implementing a faith-based unit and/or a veterans' unit, open to Level 3A inmates. Popular "theme" units provide incentives for positive inmate behavior because inmates wish to remain on the unit to engage in the unit's programming.

Inmate Idleness

- In terms of inmate idleness, staff relayed plans to potentially construct a separate outside recreation area for the Level 4 block, which will both increase Level 4 inmates' access and decrease the disruption of the recreation/movement schedule for Level 3 inmates.
- Staff relayed that an average of 11,764 hours of community service were completed each month by inmates at the facility. The facility is adding a community service room and working to increase the total number of inmates involved in community service activities to 300.
- Through the DRC's "Ohio Plan," each Case Manager is required to conduct two reentry programs and correctional counselors are required to run at least one activity.