

Lake Erie Correctional Institution Inspection Brief

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

December 17, 2015

Institution Profile

- Conneaut, Ohio (Ashtabula County)
- Level 1/2 (minimum/medium)
- Population: 1,780 (as of November 2015)
 - 56.0% Black, 39.6% White, 4.4% Other
 - Average age: 38.6
- LAECI is an open-dorm, medium security institution in the northeast portion of the state. The facility was the first in the nation to be sold to a private corporation and it transitioned to CCA on December 31, 2011. LAECI experienced a rocky beginning, but appears to have turned around entirely and is now on the forefront of several DRC initiatives.

Inspection Overview

Safety and Security: Good

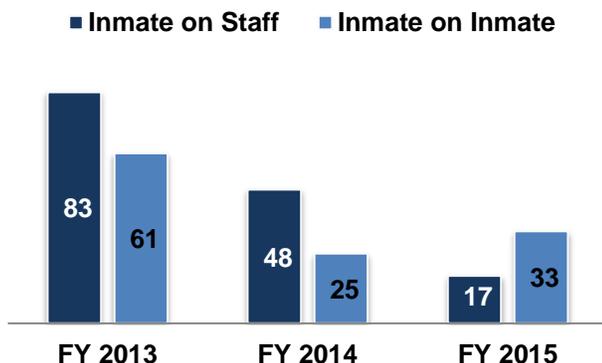
Health and Wellbeing: Good

Fair Treatment: Acceptable

Reentry and Rehabilitation: Good

Fiscal Accountability: Good

Assaults



Key Findings

- **Violence:** The rate of inmate disciplinary convictions for assaults decreased by 56.0 percent during CY 2014 in comparison to CY 2013. Fights also decreased.
- **Use of Force:** Video was available for more than half of 20 reviewed incidents and officer responses appeared to be appropriate.
- **Unit Conditions:** Each of the units appeared clean, with few maintenance concerns.
- **Medical Services:** Staffing appears sufficient to meet the needs, and there were no backlogs for inmate appointments.
- **Mental Health:** Similarly, staffing appeared to be adequate and there were no reported backlogs. LAECI offers a good range of mental health programming for inmates and critical incidents were very low.
- **Staff/Inmate Interactions:** Inmates reported via both the survey and focus groups on-site that staff/inmate interactions are negative.
- **Segregation:** LAECI has proactively and creatively worked to reduce its segregation population and increase out-of-cell time. It has also implemented unique initiatives, including community service activities and prosocial programs in segregation.
- **Reentry Planning:** LAECI employs two dedicated reentry staff, which is unusual, and it created an excellent reentry resource center, open to all inmates.
- **Literacy:** The library's per capita rate of materials was low, but actual usage was high. Academic enrollment is higher than average.
- **Fiscal:** Total utility costs have increased and recycling is below the DRC average. However, LAECI graduates a large number of inmates from an environmental literacy program. Staff survey results were very positive, and turnover has decreased.