

**CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT:  
INSPECTION AND EVALUATION  
OF THE  
OHIO RIVER VALLEY JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

**September 13, 2010**

**PREPARED AND SUBMITTED  
BY  
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AND  
CIIC STAFF**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>SECTION I. INSPECTION PROFILE AND INSTITUTION OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A. INSPECTION PROFILE</b>	
<b>B. FACILITY OVERVIEW</b>	
<b>C. JUVENILE POPULATION</b>	
<b>D. STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SECTION II. INITIAL REPORT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SECTION III. CIIC STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A. ATTEND A GENERAL MEAL PERIOD</b>	
<b>B. ATTEND AN EDUCATIONAL OR REHABILITATIVE PROGRAM</b>	
<b>C. EVALUATE THE YOUTH GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SECTION IV. KEY STATISTICS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>A. USE OF FORCE</b>	
<b>1. Number of UOF Resulting in Injury to Youth</b>	
<b>B. SECLUSION</b>	
<b>C. ASSAULT DATA.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>D. SUICIDES AND ATTEMPTS</b>	
<b>E. GEDs EARNED IN DYS FROM JULY 2009 to JUNE 30, 2010</b>	
<b>F. YOUTH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>G. SELF-INJURIOUS BEHAVIOR .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SECTION V. OPERATIONS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>A. MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	
<b>1. Infirmary Operations Summary</b>	
<b>B. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>C. FOOD SERVICES: KITCHEN AND DINING HALL.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1. Kitchen and Dining Hall Conditions</b>	
<b>D. HOUSING UNITS</b>	
<b>1. General Population Housing.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2. Special Management Units</b>	
<b>3. Other Housing Units.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>SECTION VI. PROGRAMS.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>A. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS</b>	
<b>1. Educational Programming and Vocational Programs</b>	
<b>2. Violence in School .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>B. REENTRY/UNIT PROGRAMS</b>	
<b>1. Strength Based Behavioral Management Systems (SBBMS) .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>a. Staff and Youth Communication</b>	
<b>2. Sex Offender Programs .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>3. Victim Awareness</b>	
<b>4. Boys and Young Men’s Council</b>	

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>5. Cognitive Based Therapy .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>C. RECREATION DEPARTMENT</b>	
<b>D. LIBRARY SERVICES .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>E. RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>	
<b>F. COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS</b>	
 <b>SECTION VII. CIIC CONTACTS AND CONCERNS .....</b>	 <b>25</b>
 <b>SECTION VIII. APPENDIX .....</b>	 <b>26</b>
Table 1. Juvenile Correctional Facilities by Total Population, September 1, 2010	
Table 2. Total Number of Grievances Filed by Institution, August 2010	
Table 3. Subject of Grievances Filed by Youth and Disposition, August 2010 .....	<b>27</b>
Table 4. Physical Response Data by Type	
Table 5. Number of UOF Resulting in Injury to Youth, January through July 2010 .....	<b>28</b>
Table 6. Number of Youth and Hours Youth Spent in Seclusion by Type	
Table 7. Number of Youth on Youth Incidents Requiring Medical Care, January to July 2010	
Table 8. Number and Percent of Youth Enrolled by Type of Educational Program	
Table 9. Number of Reported Concerns by Facility .....	<b>29</b>
Table 10. Category of Concerns Reported from ORVJCF	

**CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT  
ON THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF  
OHIO RIVER VALLEY JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

**SECTION I. INSPECTION PROFILE AND INSTITUTION OVERVIEW**

**A. INSPECTION PROFILE**

**Date of Inspection:** September 13, 2010

**Type of Inspection:** Unannounced

**CIIC Staff Present:** Director Joanna E. Saul  
Inspector Darin Furderer  
Inspector Gregory Geisler  
Inspector Adam Jackson

**DYS Staff Present:** Superintendent David Pigman  
Mrs. Moore, Deputy Superintendent of Direct Services  
Mrs. Collingsworth, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Komisarek, Facility Programs and Operations  
Mr. Williams, Facility Resource Administrator

**Areas Included in the Inspection:**

Youth Housing Units	Tecumseh High School Building
Special Management Unit	Food Service Building
Institutional Infirmary	Mental Health
Indoor Recreation Facility	

**B. FACILITY OVERVIEW**

The Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility (ORVJCF) opened in 1997 and is a high security juvenile correctional facility for male offenders classified by the department as **close and medium security**. The facility is located on 40 acres of land in southern Ohio and has a rated capacity of 392 youth offenders. The average cost of each youth to be housed by the Department is reported to be \$300.33 each day.

**C. JUVENILE POPULATION**

The population summary report, dated September 1, 2010, provided to CIIC by ODYS staff, stated that ORV housed 174 male juvenile offenders. ORVJCF has the third highest juvenile offender population in the state According to information available in the DYS Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report, ORVJCF had an average daily population of 270 youth for that year. For more information on the population of each facility, see Table 1 in the appendix.

#### **D. STAFF**

Information provided by ODYS reports that 350 staff are employed in the institution. In regard to the number of minority staff employed at the institution, staff relayed that the effort is ongoing, such as attending job fairs, and reaching out to historical black colleges and organizations.

## **SECTION II. INITIAL REPORT**

### **Initial Report of the CIIC Inspection of the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility**

**September 13, 2010**

On September 13, 2010, CIIC Director Joanna Saul, CIIC Inspector Gregory Geisler, CIIC Inspector Adam Jackson, and CIIC Inspector Darin Furderer inspected the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility. The following highlights both critical concerns and points of pride observed during the inspection.

#### **CRITICAL CONCERNS**

##### **USE OF FORCE**

Throughout the inspection, youth repeatedly alleged staff used force unnecessarily and excessively, particularly in areas of the unit not covered by surveillance. During the CIIC inspection, a serious incident occurred in which a youth assaulted a social worker and had to be restrained; the youth relayed to CIIC that the reason he assaulted the social worker was because the social worker was using unjustified force on another youth and he wanted it to stop.

##### **STAFF MORALE**

During the Staff Listening Session at the end of the inspection, numerous staff expressed concerns regarding their safety, their jobs, and a reported lack of consistency in administration. Security staff in particular said that they had purposefully picked posts that did not involve contact with youth because they knew officers who had lost jobs due to both false accusations by youth and heavy handed disciplinary decisions issued by DYS Central Office.

##### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Youth relayed serious concerns pertaining to Security Threat Groups in the facility. Numerous youth said that there were fights daily in the educational facility and that “if you go to school, you get whacked.”

Staff also relayed security concerns in that there is reportedly no accountability for youth who engage in serious misbehavior, or youth who make false allegations that are later unfounded. According to these staff, the lack of accountability or consequences for youth encourages disruptive youth and makes the overall environment more dangerous for everyone.

##### **FACILITY MAINTENANCE**

Although the facility was overall free of visible trash and debris and appeared to be recently cleaned, several housing units had obvious signs of facility maintenance issues, such as missing doors, destroyed locks, leaking showers, and unsanitary conditions in the restrooms.

Maintenance staff relayed that they could use an extra staff person to help them keep up with the pace of repairs as the facility ages. Several other staff relayed concerns that reflected a lack of sufficient cleaning as well as the deterioration associated with ongoing use over 15 years.

## **YOUTH GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Multiple youth alleged that the grievance procedure “doesn’t work.” Youth further alleged that no one checks the grievance procedure form drop box in the units and that no one ever contacted them to talk about grievances that they had filed.

Staff expressed opposite concerns regarding the reported misuse of the grievance procedure by youth. Staff relayed that youth often use the grievance procedure to make false allegations in order to get staff in trouble. Staff relayed that many of the grievances are unsubstantiated, but it causes some staff to hesitate when performing their jobs for fear of investigation. This concern tied into the concern that there are no repercussions for misbehavior, and that there are no repercussions for youth making false allegations against the staff.

## **POINTS OF PRIDE**

### **FOOD SERVICES**

The overall condition of the food services area was observed to be in clean and excellent condition. CIIC both ate a meal in the youth dining hall with youth and conducted a walk-through of the food preparation area. The quality of the food was observed to be of an appropriate temperature, palatable, and the quantity of the portions was more than adequate.

### **PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

Several new initiatives are being rolled out across DYS to address disruptive behavior, reduce tension, and increase safety and security. Staff expressed pride that their institution has been chosen to be the “flagship” for new programs. Furthermore, Central Office staff on site during the inspection relayed a greater commitment within DYS for Central Office staff to be in the institutions and conducting trainings. Both Central Office and ORVJCF staff are to be applauded for attempting to change the culture of the institution through positive behavior management techniques.

### **ORVJCF STAFF**

During the Staff Listening Session, facility staff relayed stories of youth throwing cups of urine into staff’s faces, false allegations regarding staff by youth, and concerns that their jobs could be in jeopardy based on youth behavior. At the same time, staff demonstrated a commitment to serving the youth population and a desire for programs that can improve the safety and security of the institution. Staff also relayed strong support for each other.

## **EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS**

Staff relayed commitment to education and programs for youth, to the point that several staff relayed at different points during the inspection a concern that the youth were “over-programmed.” In an attempt to reduce youth idleness, youth reportedly could be involved in as many as nine programs in a Saturday, for example. Staff relayed a schedule that keeps youth active and involved all day. Furthermore, staff relayed an intent to utilize youth graduates in skill-related work programs, such as a labor crew or as a worker in the library. A member of the educational staff stated that they make sure the SMU youth are taught “even if it’s through the door.”

### **SECTION III. CIIC STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

Pursuant to Section 103.73 (A) (1) and (2) of the Ohio Revised Code, the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee shall inspect each correctional institution each biennium, and further, each inspection shall include attendance at “one general meal period” and “one rehabilitative or educational program.”

#### **A. ATTEND A GENERAL MEAL PERIOD**

The meal on the day of the inspection consisted of a pulled pork sandwich, potato wedges, salad, coleslaw, applesauce, baked beans, water, and tomato juice or milk. The quality of the food was observed to be an appropriate temperature, edible, and the quantity of the portions was more than adequate. While youth relayed that they were not fed enough, the quantities of food served and choices of side items available for the one observed meal appeared to be. **Staff relayed that they average cost of each meal is approximately \$5.30**, which includes the cost of “special meals.” Special meals are generally rewards for the youth for demonstrating good behavior and are in addition to the regular meal schedule.

#### **B. ATTEND AN EDUCATIONAL OR REHABILITATIVE PROGRAM**

No classes were in session on the day of the inspection, as educational staff were attending a training.

The inspection included a brief observation of a Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Program (CBT). The program was held in the dayroom of the Edison housing unit and administered by a staff person. Ten youth attended and sat together with the staff members on chairs in a circle. The name of the lesson on that particular day was titled “Reasons for Change.” The discussion addressed how the youth could make better decisions, and encouraged them to consider the consequences of their actions.

Staff outlined the lesson objectives at the beginning of the session. Objectives included activities to identify consequences and activities to identify problematic behaviors. The youth discussed the class expectations as a group (confidentiality, punctuality, etc.), and began the opening activity for the program, which consisted of reading a fictional story that many of the youth could relate to in their own lives.

The monologue pertained to a young man named “Jose,” who had used a firearm to steal what he needed because he did not have any money. The decisions made by “Jose” eventually led to his incarceration. The staff member led a group discussion regarding the words and actions of “Jose.” Youth were encouraged to think about the consequences for “Jose’s” thinking errors and actions. During the fifteen minutes, two youth were observed participating in the discussion.

### **C. EVALUATE THE YOUTH GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The grievance procedure is a process by which youth can address concerns pertaining to the conditions of confinement. The youth completes and submits a grievance form that is investigated by the institution's Grievance Coordinator. All decisions of the institutional Grievance Coordinators are reviewed by the Chief Inspector at DYS central office to ensure the issues were addressed in compliance with policy.

Throughout the entire juvenile prison system, there were 388 grievances filed by youth in the month of August 2010. **There were 185 grievances filed by youth at ORVJCF, which represented 47 percent of all grievances filed.** The institution ranked **first** in the number of grievances filed in the month, followed by Circleville JCF with 67 grievances, Indian River JCF with 54 grievances. Youth at Scioto JCF and Cuyahoga Hills JCF filed 41 grievances each. This information is displayed in Table 2 located in the appendix.

The top three concerns the youth at ORVJCF grieved pertained to **“Decisions made by staff (not abuse)” (64), food service (16), and medical concerns (13).** Grievances filed by youth regarding verbal and physical abuse accounted for only a small number of the total grievances. For more information about the subject of grievances filed by youth in the month of August, see Table 3 in the appendix.

## SECTION IV. KEY STATISTICS

### A. USE OF FORCE.

According to the monthly information provided, **staff conducted 109 interventions in response to 71 incidents. During these incidents staff used 200 types of approved physical response techniques.** The Department defines a “physical response event” as the utilization of any one of the approved Physical Response Types. During these incidents one or more physical response types may have to be used. **Staff used the handcuffing technique 62 times, and the “C-Grip” technique, used by staff to escort youth, 45 times. There was one undescribed technique reported as “Other” used 45 times by staff during the same period.** Table 4 of the appendix has further data on the number and type of physical responses used by staff.

**Staff used mechanical restraints as a precautionary measure 81 times during August.** The total number of hours youth were restrained was reported to be 12.78. This is an average of about 15 minutes per youth.

#### 1. Number of UOF Resulting in Injury to Youth

According to data from January to July 2010, **there were 102 youth injured during uses of force.** Medical data regarding youth injury statistics reported that there were **17 youth injured due to physical responses, and five injured due to being restrained.** None of the incidents that occurred in the month of August required care other than basic first aid treatment. Table 5 in the appendix provides further data on the number of youth injured during uses of force.

### B. SECLUSION

Seclusion is when a youth is placed in a cell by himself. Seclusion is primarily used for disciplinary reasons. Youth may be secluded for acts of violence (AOV), or non-acts of violence. Youth may be placed in seclusion for extended periods if determined to be appropriate, prior to disciplinary hearings or for SMP. The information provided relays that youth may also choose to seclude themselves.

**There were 193 uses of seclusion for a total of 6,473 hours during the month of August 2010, or about 33.5 hours on average.** The most frequently utilized form of seclusion was “pre-hearing” seclusion with uses for a total of 3,148 hours. This was followed by “disciplinary” seclusion for acts of violence (AOV) with 41 uses of seclusion for 2,909 hours. There were only 12 uses of seclusion for rule infractions other than violence for a total of 67 hours during the month. Table 6 in the appendix includes a breakdown of the seclusion descriptions, total number of seclusion uses, and the number of hours in seclusion.

### C. ASSAULT DATA

Assaultive behavior is supposed to prompt immediate consequences. Behaviors considered assaultive include:

- Spitting at or on staff or a youth
- Throwing at staff or other youth urine, feces, blood or any other substance
- Beating, striking, or biting staff or other youth
- Throwing at staff anything that could cause injury

The data provided reports that there have been **283 youth on youth assaults** that occurred from September 13, 2009 to September 13, 2010. This number is eclipsed by the youth on staff assaults. For the same period data shows that **youth assaulted staff 343 times**. Of these assaults on staff, **135 staff required on-site medical care, and 38 required outside medical treatment**.

In August 2010 there were **37 total assaults, 26 were youth on youth, and 11 were youth on staff**. There were 14 youth on youth assaults that required onsite medical care, and five injuries that required off-site treatment. Of the 11 assaults on staff, one required off site medical care. January through July 2010 medical data provided shows that there was an average of 25 youth on youth incidents per month resulting in injury that required medical treatment. Table 7 in the appendix has more data on the number of youth on youth incidents requiring medical care.

### D. SUICIDES AND ATTEMPTS

The data available to our office shows that there has been only one suicide attempt at the facility during the year 2010, which reportedly occurred in April. According to the information there have been no completed suicides by youth at the facility. Data for August displayed that there were two suicide watches performed during the month.

### E. GEDs EARNED IN DYS FROM JULY 2009 to JUNE 30, 2010

According to the data provided, youth in DYS facilities earned 160 General Equivalence Diplomas last school year. Of the total GEDs earned by youth during the period, 43 were earned by youth in the ORVJCF. According to staff, since the beginning of the new school year, there have been four GEDs earned by the youth at ORVJCF.

### F. YOUTH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The institutional school statistical report dated September 15, 2010 shows that there were 150 youth enrolled to attend school. According to information provided by DYS staff, youth attended 80 percent of all class periods. Out of the total youth, 20 percent of all class periods were not attended. Of the 20 percent who did not attend all class periods, 4.5 percent were absent due to scheduled appointments such as doctor appointments, or meetings with attorneys. The remaining 15.5 percent of all classes not attended was due to removal for disruptive behavior. Staff reported that initially there were problems with attendance but staff have done a good job making sure kids come to school.

## **G. SELF-INJURIOUS BEHAVIOR**

Incidents described as Self-Injurious Behavior (SIB) are documented in the medical data provided. **The data reports that there were 15 incidents of SIB in August; 12 that were tended to by medical staff on site, and three that required outside medical treatment.** According to the descriptions of documented incidents, self-injurious behavior *could* be considered the swallowing of foreign objects such as pieces of glass, striking one's head against a window repeatedly to inflict damage, or medications consumed for reasons other than their intended purposes.

## SECTION V. OPERATIONS

### A. MEDICAL SERVICES

The institution provides medical services to ensure the health and well being of the youth. The infirmary is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The facility has two exam rooms, a dental exam room with two chairs, a laboratory for drawing blood, and a pharmacy room. Youth who need to be seen for an emergency are seen immediately.

Medical services are provided by contract and civil service staff. There are 12 civil service Nurses (two part-time and ten full-time), and a contracted medical doctor. The doctor works eight hours each week. The doctor is also on-site one extra day per month to see youth enrolled in chronic care clinics. Other contracted staff include dental staff, and as-needed services such as podiatry and optometry. The dental staff include a dentist, a hygienist, and a dental assistant who each work approximately eight hours per week.

According to August data provided, the civil service staff had 59 hours of overtime. The contract physician spent 14 hours on-site and the contract dentist had 21 hours on-site.

If youth need to see medical staff, they are instructed to submit a sick call request to the nurse or in a sick call box. Once the request is received they are reportedly seen within one day. Nurses conduct sick call throughout the week as well as other routine screenings, examinations, and immunizations. If the youth's condition requires a higher level of assessment they are referred to the physician. The doctor conducts sick call weekly. Institutional pharmacy services oversee the distribution of approximately 300 doses of medication to youth each day. If off site medical treatment is necessary, youth can be taken off grounds for diagnostic testing and outpatient procedures, and hospitalizations. Staff relayed that Southern Ohio Medical Center handles emergency services, which is a regional hospital located in nearby Portsmouth.

#### 1. Infirmary Operations Summary

The following information contains a summary of the most commonly performed medical services.

**Sick Call Appointments and Examinations.** During the period of January to July 2010, nurses performed an average of 189 health calls each month. According to data provided for the month of August, nurses performed 174 scheduled health calls, and 461 unscheduled health calls. During the period of January to July, the doctor saw an average of 68 youth each month at sick call. For the month of August, the doctor saw 53 youth.

**Dental Procedures.** Staff reported that dental exams, cleaning, and prophylaxis are completed on a twelve month cycle. During the period of January to July 2010, the dental staff saw an average of 13 youth each month. In the month of August, the dental staff performed 16 appointments for prophylaxis (cleanings), and 28 appointments for restorative care.

**Specialty Medical Consults:** During the period of January to July, an average of 21 youth were seen for consults at specialty clinics. There were 30 specialty medical consults completed in the month of August.

## **B. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

According to information provided, **there are 86 youth on the mental health caseload.** Data reported as of September 1, 2010 shows that the racial composition of the mental health case load is 52 Black youth, 28 White youth, three Hispanic youth, and three youth identified as Biracial.

Literature provided explains that the institution utilizes a community model non-invasive mental health unit with 26 beds. Staff provide therapy, monitoring, and consultation for one third of the institution's population. Many of the disorders the mental health staff attend to include ADHD, mood disorders, and anxiety disorders.

Staff reported that a majority of youth on the mental health caseload receive both medication and counseling. However, it was relayed no youth receives medication alone without receiving direct counseling from staff. According to information provided, there are only a few youth on the caseload who only receive counseling with no medications.

The psychology department is staffed by a psychological supervisor, two psychologists, three psych assistants, and one office assistant. Currently there is one vacancy for a psych assistant. Information provided stated that a psychiatrist is consulted for youth receiving medication. Each staff person has a caseload of about 15 to 20 youth.

Counseling mainly occurs on an individual basis in the housing units rather than in groups. Youth who are housed in general population units are seen on a basis of every two to three weeks. Staff reported that youth on the caseload who are housed in the special management units are seen weekly. However, according to staff, the mental health team is available to youth by making daily rounds in the housing units. If a youth wants to speak with a member of the mental health staff at another time, they can make their request through unit staff.

## **C. FOOD SERVICES: KITCHEN AND DINING HALL**

### **1. Kitchen and Dining Hall Conditions**

The dining hall can accommodate up to 174 youth at one time. For security reasons, the units eat in shifts to better manage potential disruptions if they occur. The department is staffed by 15 fulltime staff and two supervisors. The dining area was observed to be well lit with fluorescent and natural sources of light. Based on the condition of the tables, floors, and equipment on the serving line, it appeared clean and well maintained.

While eating with the youth, they expressed concerns about the sanitation in the food preparation area. A walkthrough of the area behind the serving lines, the food preparation areas and storage rooms was conducted to see if these conditions existed. Based on the observed conditions, there was nothing seen at the time of the inspection to substantiate their remarks. The telling signs of neglect such as accumulated filth beneath serving lines, in food preparation areas and the area where garbage is processed for disposal were not observed. Based on CIIC's inspection that day, staff clearly ensure that the area is properly maintained. In addition to thorough cleanings, the staff relayed that an exterminator makes monthly rounds or more frequently if necessary.

The staff employs anywhere from eight to nine youth who have graduated from the programs, or who volunteer during breaks from school. These youth are carefully selected for their demonstrated record of good behavior. These youth receive training and protective equipment to perform the responsibilities. The youth who volunteer are given "character coupons" that are redeemable in the "incentive store." The work performance of the youth are documented by their social workers and utilized in their educational and employment evaluations. This information is also communicated to the Release Authority for evaluating the youth for release.

## **D. HOUSING UNITS**

The institution living arrangements are divided between three complexes: Aviation, Innovation, and Liberation complexes. Each complex has three to four housing units that are arranged by security level. They are staffed by a unit manager, two social workers, and a staff member from psychological services. Youth are divided into age categories of 12-15 years, 16-17 years, and 18-21 years of age. While some units are considered "all ages" there are others for specific age categories to enhance the safety of youth.

**On the day of the inspection there was an average of 18 youth in each unit. The unit populations ranged from a low of 15 youth in one unit to a high of 21 youth in another.** The majority of the units are intended to house youth in general population classified as close security.

## **1. General Population Housing**

Walkthroughs of the general population housing units were conducted during the inspection. Staff offices are at the entrance of the unit, followed by an officer's desk that allows for observation of the unit. Youth rooms line the walls in a semi-circle with a large open common area in the center. There is also a game room for youth who have earned the privilege of using it. Each cell is occupied by one youth, and the number of property they possess is limited. The cells were observed to be in good condition, and the emphasis on orderliness was apparent in most places.

In some general population units, the youth were locked in their rooms for count during the CIIC inspection. In others, the youth were in the common area clustered in small groups watching television or playing board games. The atmosphere in the units was mostly calm with the exception of one unit where an incident had just occurred. Some youth in other units were obviously upset about staff "not following the rules," or for some other unspecified reason.

Each general population unit has a seclusion room. These rooms are for youth that have acted out on the unit and are waiting for their intervention disciplinary hearing. The condition of the seclusion rooms in several of these units was also of concern. One empty seclusion cell reeked of urine even though staff stated it had been cleaned.

While normal wear and tear is expected in this environment, it appeared that the conditions of several bathrooms are not frequently monitored. Leaking showers were observed as were puddles of liquid on the floor. The toilets in other bathrooms were also observed to be in need of cleaning. There were aged banana pieces in one urinal; two other urinals had wads of tissue in them; another urinal had a cup in it that was filled with urine. Although none were observed, a youth relayed that little black worms come up through the drains in the bathrooms. Youth also reported that there are field mice and insects in the unit.

## **2. Special Management Units (SMU)**

Three units in the institution are designated for disruptive youth of all ages who need to be separated from the rest of the general population due to acts of violence. These youth are housed in one of three special management units (SMU) located in the Liberation Complex. The youth who are confined here live in single person cells for most of the day. Youth are allowed out of their cell for recreation, or when going to the classroom, which is also located in their housing unit. Unlike the cells of the other units, these cells are equipped with toilets and sinks. This reduces the need for staff to let youth out of their cells, which is a moment in which the staff is most vulnerable to be assaulted.

The conditions of these units were the most impressive. The youth, while locked down, were not disruptive and were quiet. There was no sign of concern regarding the sanitary condition of these units observed. In one unit, only one youth was out of his cell distributing laundry under the supervision of a staff member. Several youth communicated concerns that staff apply hand restraints too tightly when they are being let out of their cells.

The youth in these units are on a behavior driven program consisting of three phases. These phases are designated by the colors red, yellow, and blue. Youth progress through each phase by demonstrating good behavior and program completion. Each phase is less restrictive and provides the youth with greater liberties as they progress.

### **3. Other Housing Units**

There are several units designated for a specific purpose. One such unit is the Armstrong unit located in the Aviation complex. This unit is designated at the Chemical Dependency Intervention Unit for youth of all ages who have a history of substance abuse. Programming in this unit is directed at addressing these issues.

The Edison unit houses youth of all ages classified as medium security. These youth are mostly graduates of the high school program and have a better record of good behavior while incarcerated.

## SECTION VI. PROGRAMS

### A. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

As of September 15, 2010, there were 150 youth enrolled in both regular and special education classes. A greater number of youth were enrolled in special education classes than youth enrolled in regular education classes. Information regarding enrollment and completion data is included in Table 8, located in the appendix.

The Tecumseh High School is located on the grounds of the ORVJCF and is fully accredited by the State Department of Education. It is staffed by a principal, two assistant principals, and 28 educational staff. There are six periods a day broken into 55 minute blocks of instruction. The educational department provides opportunities for academic and vocational development. During the inspection the condition of the school was inspected and observed to be similar to that of any high school a youth may attend outside of prison.

The youth handbook states youth can participate in programming for all levels of academics such as Title I, reading and math, and special education. According to other literature provided, youth can earn a High School Diploma, or a GED. Vocational classes offered include electrical wiring, horticulture, barbering, and administrative office technology.

Staff relayed that the majority of the instruction on core subjects is conducted by computer. Staff relayed the benefit of utilizing computers to provide classes is the continuity of education: If the youth is transferred to another facility, the youth can pick up at the exact same place where they left off upon arrival. However, staff reported that a significant portion of the instruction is still performed by a teacher at ORVJCF utilizing traditional educational techniques.

Several of the school's classrooms were observed. Each had banks of computers that had been purchased for the institution two years ago. These computers were kept behind plastic panels to prevent any youth from damaging them. A similar set of computers was observed in the SMU to ensure that youth have access to programming.

#### 1. Educational Programming and Vocational Programs

The following are brief descriptions of the educational and vocational programs offered to youth at the facility.

**Administrative Office Technology** provides the basic knowledge and skills that are useful in acquiring employment in a business or other professional setting. According to the literature, the program emphasizes the skills necessary for job retention and advancement. The AOT program also includes instruction on Microsoft applications.

The **General Equivalence Diploma** program is open for students who are sixteen or older, and prepares them for the final exam. Staff assist the students to strengthen areas of education where deficiencies exist in order to better prepare them for success on the exam. This includes focus on the areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

**Horticulture** includes an introduction to floriculture, greenhouse sales and production, turf and landscape management, as well as nursery and garden works.

**Barbering** is a relatively new program still under development for youth who have graduated from high school. The course begins with basic instruction for the student who has no experience or working knowledge of the trade. This course combines instruction on the subject matter and learning activities. Basic principles and skill development in the areas of sanitation and safety practices, basic skills of cutting hair are taught. The course consists of 1,800 hours of instruction.

## **2. Violence in School**

During the inspection, it was relayed by staff and youth that numerous fights occur in the school. They relayed that it is difficult to do their class work because other youth will come after them. There were 65 incidents of school violence from June 1, 2010 to September 13, 2010, according to incident data provided. The incidents occurred mostly during the movement of youth between classes, as 57 percent these incidents occur in the hallways. Violence in the classroom occurred 34 percent of the time. Six percent of the incidents occurred in areas such as the library or an office, and 3 percent occur in the area outside the school.

In response to the concern, staff acknowledged that there are two to three fights per week. However, this is a contrast to the several fights that reportedly used to occur each day. The institution is implementing new security measures to deter fighting and assaults. Reportedly, new metal detectors will be installed and youth will be screened as they enter and exit the facility. Prior procedures only required staff to screen youth exiting the school. Staff also relayed that they will increase the frequency of random searches and pat-downs in order to reduce violence. Other elements of the new security measures include training staff with verbal intervention strategies and instituting positive behavior initiatives. One example of incentives are awards for perfect attendance or for not using swear-words.

## **B. REENTRY/UNIT PROGRAMS**

According to literature provided, group programming and individual counseling is carried out by the social work staff. There are two social work supervisors who supervise twenty-one social workers. These staff is integral to the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of the youth back into society. The social worker is the youth's access to resources and programs. They also are the point of contact for outside agencies and families in order to communicate their progress or other important information.

The facility's social workers conduct programming, such as victim awareness, conflict management, sex offender specific groups, substance abuse and anger management. Other programming includes Thinking for a Change, relapse-prevention, substance abuse education, and the Chemical Dependency Intervention Unit (CDIU).

### **1. Strength Based Behavioral Management System (SBBMS):**

The Strength-based Behavioral Management System (SBBMS) is one element of the reforms implemented by the Department of Youth Services. According to information provided, it is a strategy for managing youth resistance and reducing the need for using force. The program is based on the *Character Counts* pillar of fairness, citizenship, responsibility, trustworthiness, respect and caring. Staff relayed the program encourages staff to give youth immediate positive reinforcement for pro-social behaviors and to apply graduating sanctions towards anti-social behaviors. Youth earn points that they can use to purchase items from the **Incentive Store**. The Department believes that the introduction of SBBMS to all facilities will play a role in changing the culture of DYS facilities and the way staff interacts with youth. To ensure that the SBBMS program is successful, staff will undergo two hours of training as a part of their quarterly in-service training. Furthermore, staff and youth will receive six hours of cultural sensitivity training tailored to the facility's specific needs.

Mechanics of the program's intent include the following:

- Staff are to “catch kids doing things right.”
- Works on the basis that staff will shape a youth's behavior by providing a structured reinforcements and sanction process.
- Uses effective interventions, with the two primary principles of addressing behavior immediately and consistently.
- Creates consistent standards for incentives and sanctions for all situations.
- Provides a clear structure for youth so that they can understand what they can earn if they behave appropriately.
- Supports the development of the treatment plan and focuses on long-term change.

#### **a. Staff and Youth Communication**

Most staff and youth both had positive things to say about the program. Many stated the increased violence and disruptive behavior is reflective of a lack of a meaningful discipline and/or reward structure in the past. Optimism was expressed that the program will increase youth accountability thereby reducing disruptive behavior. It was relayed that while there were still youth who are not interested in participating in the program, most staff relayed belief that the incentives appeal to the majority of them.

However, some staff relayed that the program has not been correctly communicated. They reported that still many staff remains unaware of how the program is supposed to work. Youth echoed similar sentiments throughout the inspection. Furthermore, according to several youth, staff fail to implement the program correctly. A youth relayed that one staff person will provide information that conflicts with another. Other youth relayed that staff abide by the program when they want. The inconsistent application of the rules has led to confusion and a perception of a lack of fairness. To some extent this has led to more disruptive behavior according to the youth.

## **2. Sex Offender Programs**

All youth who are classified as close security and who have been identified to be in need of sex offender treatment programming are sent to ORVJCF. Information regarding the program provided relay that the topics covered include facts about sex abuse and offending, the law and sex offenders; honesty, denial, minimization and accepting responsibility; thoughts, beliefs, attitudes and thinking errors; showing empathy; victims of sexual abuse; victim apology; and relapse prevention.

## **3. Victim Awareness**

According to information provided on site, the Release Authority requires that youth successfully complete this program as a condition of release. The program literature provided states that youth are given information to help them develop an understanding empathy for others. This, according to the information, will prevent the youth from engaging in future criminality and cease the victimization of others. During this program youth:

- Examine various crimes and look at the dynamics of each crime and the effect crime has on the victims.
- Provide an opportunity for offenders to see crime from the victim perspective.
- Afford the offender the opportunity to take personal responsibility for their crime.
- Allow victims of crime to share their experiences as a crime victim.

## **4. Boys and Young Men's Council**

According to literature provided, this group program is intended to teach young men about their natural strengths and develop a broader understanding of their role as a male. The myths about how to be a "real boy" or a "real man" are challenged through activities and dialogue.

## **5. Cognitive Based Therapy**

According to information available from the Department, Cognitive Based Therapy (CBT) focuses on targeting certain criminogenic factors youth might have and helps them to restructure, or change, the way they think and respond in various situations. This is done through learning and practicing pro-socials skills and behaviors. The Department relayed that this will encourage positive interaction between staff and youth. Staff stated they are rolling this into place, but it is taking longer because the facility cannot remove all staff at once for training.

## **C. RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Literature provided states that the facility employs five General Activity Therapists that develop recreational schedules and activity for the youth. These staff reportedly conduct physical fitness assessments, maintain and order equipment, as well as organize an intramural schedule for youth. Recreation staff relayed that they conduct two hours of recreation each day. In an effort to support decision making, staff provide the youth with a variety of activities. Staff relayed that

they are looking at other alternatives to traditional sports and implementing exercise programs for youth. These programs would also include an instructional element for diet education.

During the inspection, indoor and outdoor recreation was observed. The youth in the outdoor recreation area were playing tag football. The youth in the indoor recreation area were playing basketball and other youth were passing the football back and forth.

#### **D. LIBRARY SERVICES**

The institution has a large and well organized library. Youth are permitted to visit the library only during school hours, and each unit has an assigned day of the week to visit the library. If a youth asks his teacher to go to the library during school hours, he may be permitted to go and check out books. The Librarian is also responsible for fulfilling book requests and delivering them to youth in the Special Management Units. One youth who has graduated from the program assists in the library by processing the magazines and keeping the books straight.

According to the librarian, the budget allotted to the library is \$4,500 dollars each year. In addition to the annual budget, a Federal grant was awarded in the amount of \$5,000 to purchase books. It was relayed that every once in a while there is a book donation, but there is no established system for donations from local libraries.

Among the different categories of books available for youth, there were special topic sections dedicated to African American literature, and Spanish speaking sections. This is an area where the staff is trying to improve the selection of literature available. Staff relayed that African American literature was very popular, and most of the selections were checked out at the time. According to the Librarian, five to ten percent of the library budget is allocated for the purchase of literature for this section.

#### **E. RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

According to information relayed by staff, meeting the needs of the youth's spirituality is the responsibility of the facility's Chaplain. This is accomplished through religious programming, religious study, and faith-based volunteer organizations. Special arrangements can be made to meet the needs of youth who have spiritual needs that are not provided by the facility. The youth also have the opportunity to meet with their spiritual advisors of any faith. The Chaplain can make arrangements to fulfill approved requests for these meetings. If requested, the youth are also provided reading and study material for a variety of faiths. In addition to the services provided by staff, there are also a large number of faith based volunteer organizations that come to the facility to conduct programming for the youth.

#### **F. COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS**

According to literature provided by ORVJCF staff, staff also coordinate community service programs for youth. Youth work on identified seasonal projects and annual philanthropic events. Several examples of youth participation in community service included supporting literacy

projects, construction projects in the community, and supporting an Operation Christmas Child community service project.

## **SECTION VII. CIIC CONTACTS AND CONCERNS**

From January 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 a total of 16 contacts were received by CIIC regarding Ohio Department of Youth Services facilities. Those 16 contacts reported 77 concerns. The contacts were received in the form of letters from youth and phone calls from concerned family members. The most contacts received from one ODYS institution were eight contacts containing 32 concerns from youth at Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility. Table 9 in the appendix displays the breakdown of contacts by facility.

The contacts from ORVJCF have come from both employees and youth. The most frequently cited area of concern was in regard to **Supervision**. This is the most frequently documented concern out of the contacts CIIC has received from all ODYS facilities. The CIIC database indicates that CIIC has received a total of 25 reported concerns (32 percent of all reported concerns) about this issue. Concerns associated with Supervision include unprofessional conduct, abusive language, racial or ethnic slurs, unjustified conduct reports, and intimidation/threats. Table 10 displays the category of concern reported by youth and staff at the facility.

**SECTION VIII. APPENDIX**

<b>Institution Name</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Cuyahoga Hills JCF	224
Indian River JCF	183
Ohio River Valley JCF	174
Scioto JCF	135*
Circleville JCF	124
Paint Creek Youth Center	48
Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Facility	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>898</b>

\*This number includes the total male and female population combined for SJCF. On the date of the report, there were 34 female juveniles, and 99 male juvenile offenders at SJCF.

<b>Institution Name</b>	<b>Number of Grievances Filed</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Grievances</b>
Ohio River Valley JCF	185	47%
Circleville JCF	67	17
Indian River JCF	54	14
Scioto JCF	41	11
Cuyahoga Hills JCF	41	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>100%</b>

Category of Youth Complaint	Decision Pending	Grievance closed and handled by Investigation	Grievance has merit	Grievance has no merit	Grievance resolved without involvement	Total
Complaints against the decisions of staff (not abuse)	19	0	8	32	5	<b>64</b>
Institutional Operations: Food	8	0	0	7	1	<b>16</b>
Medical Concerns	7	0	0	6	0	<b>13</b>
Institutional Operations: Living Conditions	4	0	5	3	0	<b>12</b>
Safety Concerns, i.e., STG, taxing	2	8	0	0	1	<b>11</b>
Institutional Operations: Personal Possession	6	0	2	2	0	<b>10</b>
Physical Abuse from Staff	5	2	0	1	0	<b>8</b>
All other issues	1	1	2	3	1	<b>8</b>
Institutional Operations: Clothing	3	0	2	3	0	<b>8</b>
Verbal Abuse from Staff	3	4	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
Education	3	0	2	2	0	<b>7</b>
Other Program Concerns	1	0	0	6	0	<b>7</b>
Non-grievable issue (IH and Release Authority)	3	0	0	4	0	<b>7</b>
Communications, i.e., mail, phone calls, etc.	1	0	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
Social Services	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Mental Health	1	0	0	1	0	<b>2</b>
Recreation	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>185</b>

Physical Response Description	Physical Response Totals	Percentage
Hand Cuffing Technique	62	31%
<i>Other</i>	45	22.5
C-grip Escort	45	22.5
Fight Breakup	26	13.0
Outside Heel Turn	11	5.5
Inside Heel Turn	8	4.0
Basic Block	2	1.0
Outside Wrist Turn	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 5. Number of UOF Resulting in Injury to Youth</b>
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<b>January through July 2010</b>								
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	<b>Total</b>
No. of UOF Resulting in Injury to Youth	13	11	19	23	12	14	10	<b>102</b>

<b>Table 6. Number of Youth and Hours Youth Spent in Seclusion by Type</b>		
<b>Seclusion Type</b>	<b>Number of Youth</b>	<b>Hours in Seclusion</b>
Pre-Hearing Seclusion (AOV)	72	3,184.70
Discipline Seclusion (AOV)	41	2,909.68
Seclusion	36	78.55
Self Confinement	20	54.40
Discipline Seclusion (non-AOV)	12	67.47
SMP	10	73.57
Extended Seclusion	2	105.33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>6,473.70</b>

<b>Table 7. Number of Youth on Youth Incidents Requiring Medical Care January to July 2010</b>								
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	<b>Total</b>
No. of Incidents Resulting in Injury to Youth	19	24	26	31	17	26	31	<b>174</b>

<b>Table 8. Number and Percent of Youth Enrolled by Type of Educational Program</b>		
<b>Type of Educational Program</b>	<b>Number of Youth Enrolled</b>	<b>Percentage Enrolled</b>
Special Education	89	50.0%
Regular Education	61	34.0
Graduates on the Compound	26	15.0
Pre-Enrollment	2	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 9. Number of Reported Concerns by Facility</b>
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Ohio River Valley JCF	32
Indian River JCF	19
Other JCF*	18
Cuyahoga Hills JCF	6
Circleville JCF	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

<b>Table 10. Category of Concerns Reported from ORVJCF January to July 2010</b>	
Supervision	9
Health Care	3
Force	3
Other	3
Legal Assistance	2
Protective Control	2
Housing	2
Inmate Relations	1
Security Classification	1
Institution Assignment	1
Special Management Housing	1
Inmate Grievance Procedure	1
Non-grievable Matters	1
Recreation	1
Educational/Vocational Programs	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>