

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

Prepared and Submitted by CIIC Staff

November 9, 2007

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OF THE  
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**INSPECTION PROFILE:**

Date of Inspection: September 28, 2007

Type of Inspection: Unannounced

CIIC Members and Staff Present: Representative Tyrone Yates  
Shirley Pope, CIIC Director  
Gregory Geisler, Inspector  
Brianna Michalak, Inspector

Department of Youth Services Staff Present:

Fred Nelson, Superintendent  
Tammy Collingsworth, Administrative  
Assistant/Grievance Coordinator  
Naomi Brown, Office Assistant

Areas and Activities Included in Inspection:

Entry and exit conference	Aviation Complex
Administrative Offices	Tecumseh High School Gymnasium
Liberation Complex	Medical Services
Innovation Complex	Visitation Area

**FACILITY PROFILE**

The following information was provided to CIIC staff during the inspection on September 28, 2007.

**Overview:**

Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility (ORVJCF) is a juvenile correctional facility for males, located on 40 acres in Franklin Furnace, Ohio and operated by the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS). The facility opened in 1997 and is committed to providing appropriate medical, educational, recreational, psychological and vocational training as well as job preparation and counseling services based on the needs of individual youth.

**Mission:**

The mission of the facility is to provide an atmosphere of safety and security, fostering a therapeutic, pro-social environment wherein youth may gain the necessary tools to choose to live crime free upon their release.

**Accreditation:**

The Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility received initial accreditation in 1999, completed the re-accreditation process in February of 2003 with a score of 99.7% and the re-accreditation process in February of 2006 with a score of 98.9%.

**Education:**

Youth are required by the State of Ohio to be enrolled in Educational Programming while they are adjudicated. Tecumseh High School at ORVJCF is fully accredited by the Department of Education. Courses such as English, Social Studies, Science and Math are offered in regular and special education classrooms. Classes are generally smaller than those in other schools and have much more individualized instruction. There are also classes in art, health and physical education.

Students over the age of 16 can enroll in Vocational Administrative Technology, Horticulture, Residential Wiring or Masonry classes. The Guidance Counselors place youth in proper classes based on both the youth's test scores and interviews. Library and resource materials are also available for academic and recreational research or reading.

According to the Youth Handbook, students who have not yet graduated are required to attend school. The school runs on a quarterly basis with breaks during March, June, September and December. Classes are held from 7:45 AM - 10:45 AM and 12:15 PM - 3:15 PM. Generally, each youth will be scheduled for six class periods a day with each class period lasting 45 minutes.

**Recreation:**

The Recreational Department offers opportunities to enjoy physical and leisure activities such as, indoor and outdoor sports, arts and crafts, and outdoor recreation. Youth are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities and participate in as many as possible to maintain and improve their health and fitness.

The Youth Handbook states that there is normally a scheduled recreation time for each unit, with times varying daily from 45-60 minute sessions. The recreational facilities include an indoor gym with full basketball and volleyball courts. Yearly activities include softball and basketball teams that compete against area teams who have come into ORVJCF to play scheduled games. Youth also have the opportunity to participate in on grounds community service projects

Once youth achieve an upper level status, they have the opportunity to attend special assemblies and sporting events within the institution, and are permitted to work out in the weight room during recreation periods.

### **Community Service:**

The youth work to develop a community service program that benefits the surrounding community. The staff and youth consider community service to be an integral part of their programming and take great pride in the projects they complete for the community as well as agencies such as, Crayons to Computers, Habitat for Humanity and the Ohio Bicentennial Commission.

### **ATTENDANCE AT GENERAL MEAL**

Due to a facility lockdown, youth were not permitted to eat in the cafeteria. Rather, they consumed their lunch in their room. However, the CIIC statutory requirement of attending a general meal period was met, because the CIIC member and staff were present while youth received their lunch tray in one of the housing units, specifically Taft Unit. Lunch consisted of a fried fish sandwich, macaroni and cheese, broccoli, and fruit. Although one youth who was eating lunch stated that the meal was “horrible,” he explained that he simply does not like fish. The same youth stated that the meal was warm and that the meals at ORVJCF were “generally alright.” No other youth made any comment about the food at ORVJCF.

### **ATTENDANCE AT REHABILITATIVE OR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

As stated above, the facility lockdown prohibited CIIC staff from observing a regular rehabilitative or educational program in session. However, the CIIC was provided with the opportunity to attend the high school graduation ceremony in the afternoon. The requirement to attend an educational program was therefore met.

Much effort was put into making the ceremony special for the youth and their families. The youth wore the traditional cap and gown and were lead into the gymnasium while Pomp and Circumstance played overhead. The tables were decorated and sparkled with glitter. Program brochures were made for the families of youth who were in attendance. A special meal was placed on long tables at the back of the auditorium for the youth and their families following the ceremony. The number of families was far less than the number of graduates, but all seemed quite proud of the youths’ achievement. One youth was surprised with the unexpected visit from his family, who traveled from Florida for the ceremony.

According to the program, 26 youth graduated. The keynote speaker was a female teacher at the facility who delivered a sincere speech with an inspirational message to the youth. The Superintendent was unable to be present for most of the ceremony due to the need to attend a briefing on the findings of the institutional shakedown. He was able to attend prior to the closing ceremony, and stayed afterward to speak with youth and their

families. The CIIC had the opportunity to speak privately to the graduates after the ceremony, just before their return to their families for their graduation meal.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

### **Overview:**

A youth orientation to the grievance procedure is included in the youth handbook, which was revised on May 17, 2007. As stated in the handbook, the Ohio Department of Youth Services has developed a problem-solving process for youth to grieve any action, incident, living condition, dispute or the application of any departmental policy or practice, which they believe to be unjust, detrimental, or a violation of their rights. The youth handbook states that upon arrival, each youth shall receive instruction on this procedure along with a copy of the Youth Grievance Handbook. Youth must then sign a receipt for this handbook, which is to be kept in their original file.

The youth handbook states that when a youth is confronted with an issue that they feel warrants a grievance, they should first attempt to resolve the issue with the appropriate staff member informally before proceeding with the formal process. Next, the handbook explains that if a youth still feels that a grievance is necessary, they should complete a youth grievance form with as much information as possible. Once that form is complete, the youth are advised to place it in the locked grievance box.

The Grievance Coordinator will retrieve the grievance form from the grievance box and process the grievance. The handbook explains that youth will be notified of any action taken on the grievance within two weeks, and the Grievance Coordinator will review the response with the youth. The youth has the opportunity to state whether they are “satisfied” or “not satisfied” with the response. There is one level of appeal regarding youth grievances, which is the Chief Inspector’s Office.

The youth handbook highlights that the grievance procedure is about processes, not people. It further states that, “Grievances do work and are an effective means of resolving issues.” It is also noted that this process cannot be used to grieve any legislative action, judicial proceeding, discipline or any other matter that is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts or other agencies.

It is explained to youth that they have four options to deal with a complaint about the institution. Those options include, speaking to staff members, filing a grievance, contacting a private attorney or contacting an attorney provided by DYS.



### **Grievance Summary for August 2007:**

A review of the grievance data, provided by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, shows that 198 grievances were filed at Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility during August 2007. The number of grievances is reported to be on the increase at the facility. As noted in the CIIC's last report on ORVJCF, there were only 88 grievances for the month of March 2006.

A large number of grievances, or a significant increase in the number of grievances is not necessarily a negative indicator. Frequent use of the grievance procedure may be a healthy sign that youth feel free to file a complaint or report a problem. It should be noted that the Grievance Coordinator at ORVJCF is also the Administrative Assistant, limiting the time that can be devoted to either position.

After viewing the grievances provided by ODYS, CIIC staff grouped the grievances into subject categories. The following table shows the grievance category, as created by CIIC staff, followed by the number of complaints in that category. A sampling of excerpts from grievances in each of the above categories is included below for review. The grievance summaries provided by ODYS to CIIC contain no youth identifiers. Therefore, the extent to which one youth may have filed several grievances, possibly on the same issue throughout the month, is not known.

**Table 1. Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility  
Grievance Breakdown For August 2007**

Inappropriate Supervision	47
Disciplinary Action	43
Safety	23
Medical/Dental Care	17
Youth Property	16
Use of Force/Threats of Force	11
Facilities Maintenance	10
Grooming	7
Programming	7
Youth Grievance Procedure	6
Food Services	5
Telephone/Mail	5
Release	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Subjects of Grievances**

### **Inappropriate Supervision:**

- ...JCO has been bringing in outside food for special youth and showing favoritism...
- ...I stated I would be writing a grievance and staff stated go right ahead and I will put 600 write ups on your behalf...
- ...Second shift JCOs cannot control the unit...they either need a lot more training or experience before they run a unit...things are out of control and they need to be reassigned...second shift JCOs lock up for the night and will not let level ones or twos out of their room to use the restroom...
- ...I asked to use the restroom, he said no...I have a bladder problem so I had to pee my pants...
- ...JCO does not let us use the restroom...once he did not let us use the restroom and I had to pee in a milk carton...
- ...JCO called me a “nigger” and I have witnesses...

### **Disciplinary Action:**

- ...I got wrote up and I never got to sign my write up and staff are not telling me anything...
- ...Since I have been on seclusion I have not gotten a snack or a shower...
- ...I got an YBIR for throwing chairs but the camera proved I did not and nothing was done...
- ...I lost my level for only one incident and was dropped from a level 4 to a level 2 which I was told they could not do for only one YBIR...
- ...I was placed in my room because a note was found concerning the safety of other youth on the unit but my name was not on the note and I have been in my room past 24 hours without anyone coming to discuss it...
- ...I have been locked in my room for over 40 hours for a situation that I did not cause...I cannot take this...I constantly ask to speak with Operations but nobody has come...I am going nuts in this room...

### **Safety:**

- ...I have been telling staff on McGuffey Unit that youth have threatened to jump me...it finally happened yesterday and they have threatened to continue jumping everyday...
- ...I feel unsafe in this institution because of the gang hits out on me and the inability of staff to protect me until after I have been struck...
- ...I would like to know why after many statements and grievances warning that I was going to be assaulted...there were no steps taken to prevent it...I had been complaining it was going to happen for months and yet it still happened...
- ...I feel incredibly unsafe going into the cafeteria...I would feel much safer on unit restriction because of the gang hit on my head...
- ...I warned staff that I was going to be assaulted...there was no attempt on anyone’s part to ensure my safety and as a result the gang HB was allowed to fulfill its contract on my head...

- ...I was attacked three times and I am scared and they will not move me and I am not safe on this unit or Rickenbacker or McGuffey because there is mass gang staff and I am not a gang member and mostly everybody is trying to get me...

#### **Medical/Dental Care:**

- ...JCO did not take the unit to med line because of a code...so I asked him numerous times to call the nurse for my meds and he refused...
- ...The nurse gave me the wrong medication...
- ...I asked to see the nurse all day because I had been spitting blood all day...staff called her and she said she was not coming down unless I was dying...
- ...The clinic told me I was going off grounds...but I come and sign up again to see what is going on and they say they have not even made the appointment they forgot...
- ...I have asked to see the doctor but I have not gotten to see him...the last time I saw him was June...
- ...This facility is not providing the proper medical care for my condition...they will not allow me to take mild prescription pain relievers...

#### **Youth Property:**

- ...I ordered two sketch pads and only got one...
- ...I went to Grant and when I got back my glasses were missing so I told the Secretary and she said she would look for them or order new ones and it has been about three months...
- ... I came over to this unit two weeks ago and I still did not receive my personal things...
- ...Most of the clothes on the unit are damaged and need to be replaced plus there are not enough clothes for everyone until the weekend...this has been brought to the UAs attention but still nothing has been done...
- ...We keep running out of clothes on our unit...
- ...When my room got searched my bible got torn and I did not get a replacement...

#### **Use of Force/Threats of Force:**

- ...JCO came in my door, opened it and pushed me on my bed...she said, "I am sick of your shit, you do not think that I will take my man down off and restrain your ass..."
- ...I was in a fight in school and was restrained by JCO and he messed up my back...
- ...When I was in my room JCO threatened to kill me and another youth...I do not feel safe to sleep...
- ...Staff threatened to get me "clapped" by a youth because I cussed at her...
- ...I threatened to hurt myself and JCO said "go ahead" so I did and JCO threatened to kill me...
- ...JCO was hitting me and broke my arm...

**Facilities Maintenance:**

- ...The air conditioner is not working in these rooms...
- ...We have had JCOs call maintenance about three times because our air has been cut off for about four days and they still have not come...
- ...I hit my sprinkler and when maintenance came in staff refused to let them fix it...now when they turn the water on I am going to get wet...
- ...I have ants in my room...

**Grooming:**

- ...Armstrong Unit has not had their hair cut in one or two months...
- ...I have not seen a hair cut person since April...
- ...The last two months the barber has skipped us...he got started with eight people on our unit and never finished...
- ...We have been waiting a month and a half for a hair cut and the barber keeps skipping us...

**Programming:**

- ...I got my approval but staff will not let me go to group...
- ...On Rickenbacker my social worker is not letting me do any of my groups...
- ...Staff refuse to let me go to school...every time I ask can I go to school they say no...
- ...Central Office restrictions of our free time are creating a hostile environment because they take all of our motivating factors and we have nothing to lose...

**Youth Grievance Procedure:**

- ...I would like to know why none of my grievances are being answered in a timely fashion or at all for that matter...
- ...I wrote a grievance to the Chief Inspector on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and have not heard anything back...

**Food Services:**

- ...I was not given dinner after coming back from the hospital...
- ...There were spiders in my food...I saw them before I ate though...

**Telephone/Mail:**

- ...I was approved to write my mom who is locked up...I wrote to her for two months and then was told I was never approved...
- ...Second shift JCOs are not letting youth use the phones during free time...

**Release:**

- ...We do not have kites anymore and I need to talk to staff about my placement and why I am not leaving...

## **STAFF PROFILE**

### **Staff**

As of September 28, 2007, ORVJCF had 321 staff positions including Substitute Teachers. Of that number, they had 302 filled positions. As noted in more detail below, there were 19 staff vacancies. The youth population totaled 356.

### **Staff Race and Gender**

On the day of the inspection, the following information was provided regarding staff race and gender breakdowns. As of September 28, 2007 the racial breakdown was as follows: 93% White and 7% Minority. Regarding Gender, 67% of the staff is male and 33% of the staff is female.

Some staff relayed that an increase in minority employee recruitment could help to improve staff and youth relationships and the reported racial tension. The total population of 356 youth consists of 62.93% Non-Caucasian (57.02% African American, 3.1% Biracial, and 2.81% Hispanic), with 37.08% Caucasian.

### **Staff Vacancies**

As of September 28, 2007, there were 19 vacancies at ORVJCF. The following positions were vacant as of the facility's pay period ending September 15, 2007:

2 Deputy Superintendents  
1 Social Worker Supervisor  
1 Social Worker  
1 Activity Therapist  
5 Teachers  
1 Nurse  
1 JCO Manager  
4 Officers  
1 Food Service Worker  
1 Maintenance Worker  
1 Clerk

## **STAFF CONCERNS**

During the inspection, numerous staff expressed concerns. The predominant concern pertained to safety and security.

Some staff believe that the relatively new JCO Assessment Test had actually harmed the quantity and quality of potential applicants. Some staff relayed that if the test was designed to screen out those with unsuitable traits for a youth correctional facility, and to increase the number of new officers with suitable traits, it is reportedly not working.

Reportedly, flaws in the test contribute to the reported increase in resignations from individuals, who are unable to deal with high stress situations.

One staff member reported that one scenario on the test, questioned what the correct response would be to a youth who was acting up loudly in the common area of a unit. Reportedly, the correct response to this question was to “do nothing.”

In addition, one staff person voiced concern that the hiring was reportedly taken away from the institutions by Central Office, and that decision has reportedly been detrimental in the search for quality employees. One staff person expressed his belief that there is a cultural barrier between ORVJCF and Central Office and that the administration is taking away all the tools the officers had.

Another major issue expressed by staff was that of mandated overtime. It was explained that when officers are mandated to work overtime, they are required to work double consecutive shifts, with the accompanying sleep deprivation and strain on their family due to their absence, all of which impacts the security of the facility. One officer relayed that the day of the inspection was his fourth mandate for the week. In addition, it was relayed that mandated officers are often placed on unfamiliar units where they have established no rapport with the youth. Reportedly, in some instances, both mandated officers are placed on a unit in which neither is familiar with the youth. Again, this was cited as a security concern.

Numerous staff relayed that in the past one to two years, “Things have really gone downhill.” The same staff spoke of a need for control, and felt as if they have none. They commented on the required Verbal Strategies Training, and stressed that there are times when immediate action is needed for the safety of officers and other youth. Numerous officers stated that they could take no action without first calling supervisors to bring a camera to document the incident.

Some staff stated that due to litigation, all the tools have been taken away from staff, and youth know they can do whatever they want, and there will be no real consequences. In one unit, a staff member reported that since the first of the year nearly 100 sprinkler heads have been destroyed by youth, wasting nearly 50,000 gallons of water. According to this staff member, the youth responsible received no disciplinary action for the damage.

Another officer echoed those concerns and stated that there was no discipline for anything. He stated that if a youth gets in a fight, they go to their room for one hour. As soon as they get out, they get in another fight, reportedly because they just do not care.

Staff seemed to agree that the overall morale among both staff and youth was much lower than in the past when both groups seemed to display a sense of pride about their institution and demonstrated a common respect for one another.

## YOUTH PROFILE/CONCERNS

According to the Youth Handbook, the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility is a facility for male felony offenders ages 12 to 21.

The following information was provided during the inspection. The youth are housed in one of three complexes in one of ten units. The housing areas, along with their general descriptions and racial breakdowns are listed below.

**Table 2. Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility  
Youth Racial Breakdown by Housing Unit and Race  
September 2007**

Housing Complex/ Housing Unit	African American	Caucasian	Bi-Racial	Hispanic	TOTAL
Liberation					
Hayes <i>Sex Offender</i>	6 (26 %)	<b>17 (74 %)</b>	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	23
Taft <i>Sex Offender</i>	7 (30 %)	<b>13 (57 %)</b>	2 (9 %)	1 (4 %)	23
Grant <i>Intensive Programming</i>	<b>20 (83 %)</b>	3 (13 %)	0 (0 %)	1 (4 %)	24
McKinley <i>Mental Health</i>	5 (23 %)	<b>15 (68 %)</b>	0 (0 %)	2 (9 %)	22
Aviation					
Armstrong <i>General Population</i>	<b>37 (84 %)</b>	6 (14 %)	0 (0 %)	1 (2 %)	44
Rickenbacker <i>General Population</i>	<b>39 (81 %)</b>	9 (19 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	48
Wright <i>Chemical Dependency</i>	20 (42 %)	<b>24 (50 %)</b>	3 (6 %)	1 (2 %)	48
Innovation					
Edison <i>Transition</i>	20 (43 %)	21 (45 %)	2 (4 %)	4 (9%)	47
McGuffey <i>General Population</i>	<b>32 (74 %)</b>	9 (21 %)	2 (5 %)	0 (0 %)	43
Morgan <i>Sex Offender</i>	<b>17 (50 %)</b>	15 (44 %)	2 (6 %)	0 (0 %)	34

**Table 3. Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility  
Youth Racial Breakdown by Race  
September 2007**

African American	203	57.02 %
Caucasian	132	37.08 %
Biracial	11	3.10 %
Hispanic	10	2.81 %
Other	0	0 %
TOTAL	356	100 %

Staff and youth shared extensive communication during the inspection. Their common concern pertained to safety and security. Staff relayed the opinion that the number one concern among staff and youth is safety. One youth, with a visible eye and face injury, relayed that he had received stitches at an outside hospital after having been attacked. Reportedly, the attack was ordered by the gang leader and carried out by one of the gang members. It was alleged that the assaulter in this situation remained in the same unit as the victim and received no consequences for the attack. Other youth expressed their opinion that second shift staff especially is controlled by gangs who reportedly “walk all over” the officers.

One youth stated that he was at ORVJCF in 2003 and he liked it much better then. He stated that it was strict and safe then, and now staff reportedly refuse to control the youth. The youth stated that staff needed to “drop the camera and do something because they are getting walked all over.” In this youth’s opinion, first shift is okay but “second shift is bad” and youth “cuss and act out” like “idiots.” Another youth stated that he feels safe but there are definitely more gangs this time as compared to his last incarceration. One youth stated that the environment was “okay” but there are a lot of stressors including “riots” on other units and fighting amongst one another. One youth commented that he joined a gang for security because he did not feel safe.

## **ENTRANCE SESSION**

Representative Tyrone Yates, CIIC Director Shirley Pope and Inspectors Greg Geisler and Brianna Michalak arrived at the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility at approximately 9:45 AM on September 28, 2007. Upon entry, one female officer was on duty. She was very pleasant and professional. She initially understood that no facility staff could enter the facility because of the institution shakedown in progress. However, the Chief of Security provided clarification to the contrary. The officer notified the Superintendent of the CIIC arrival, and processed the CIIC through the metal detector with no problem.

The inspection began with an initial meeting with Superintendent Fred Nelson, Administrative Assistant Tammy Collingsworth and Naomi Brown who was tracking progress of the shakedown. The Superintendent was truly gracious from the beginning to the end, in spite of the fact that the DRC SRT or STAR team, in addition to the OSHP were conducting an unannounced shakedown. In addition, he also had visitors coming for the high school graduation ceremony that afternoon.

The CIIC Director provided the Superintendent with 11 sets of questions, grouped by subject, based on Juvenile Expectations by Great Britain’s Inspectorate of Prisons, consisting of criteria for assessing the conditions for and treatment of juveniles in custody. It was requested that he assign each of the 11 subjects to different staff who have knowledge and expertise in that particular area. The questions and answers can be found at the end of this report.



The Superintendent explained there are ten units in three housing complexes: Liberation, Aviation and Innovation. Within the complexes are three Sex Offender Units, one Mental Health Unit, one Transition Unit, three General Population Units, one Intensive Programming Unit and one Chemical Dependency Unit. The general population units were reported to be the most problematic due to gang activity and the youth's individual needs. The count that day was approximately 350 youth, which was nearly 100 more youth than the population on the date of CIIC's last visit. As indicated above, the facility was on a complete lockdown.

Staff relayed that communication had been intercepted, which indicated that "something big" would be happening on the first day of school, October 1, 2007. Staff relayed that the shakedown should create a sterile environment, ensuring that the facility is contraband free. Due to the lockdown, the youth did not go to the dining room for lunch, but rather were provided a meal tray in their room or cell. Further, no programs were operating due to the lockdown. The facility was in intercession, that is, the educational programming was on break, scheduled to resume school on the following Monday.

A major topic of discussion at the entrance conference was gang activity. It was stated that the percentage of youth involved in gangs at the facility is difficult to accurately identify, but it was estimated that approximately 10-15% of youth are involved with gangs in some way. It was relayed that there is no full-time Security Threat Group (STG) Coordinator at Central Office. However, there is one Juvenile Correctional Officer (JCO) at ORVJCF that serves as an STG Coordinator in addition to his other officer duties. Staff relayed that when contraband is found, it is sent to this Officer who is very good at handling and tracking gang related materials. It was also relayed that the person who was the equivalent of an STG Coordinator at Central Office has since retired, and now no one staff person is really in charge of STG matters.

It was explained that profiling is reportedly done at reception, at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. However, unless profiling and monitoring continues at the parent institutions, there is an absence of accurate information to identify the changes in STG membership at each facility. Without continued profiling and monitoring at the parent institutions, staff may not know or document who has joined a gang while in their institution. The two major gangs present at the facility were said to be the Head Busters and the Heartless Felons. Staff relayed that it would be helpful to have some way to separate the gangs but that the staff are limited in their ability to move the youth within or out of the facility, especially since some facilities have specialized criteria for the youth they will accept.

Staff relayed that the top concern among youth, staff, and also the administration is safety. Mainly, the administration is concerned with making the facility safe for youth and staff, which is reported to be difficult to do with nearly 350 youth, and the same staffing levels as they have had for years. Increasing the difficulty even more is the fact that youth at ORVJCF are typically those who do not function well at other facilities. As noted in the previous CIIC report on the facility, it was reported that DYS had specifically assigned troubled, disruptive gang youth to Ohio River Valley JCF.

The facility is reported to be experiencing a problem with employee retention. It was noted that one employee just resigned that morning. In addition, two staff members were reported to be on administrative leave, while additional others are out on disability,

Some staff feel that the JCO Assessment Test is partially to blame for staffing problems. Staff relayed that three years ago, the JCO Assessment Test was created with the idea that it would screen for a more well-rounded individual. However, some staff feel that it has led to staff being hired who easily become unnerved and have limited ability to deal with youth. This then leads to resignations, which causes an even greater shortage. Staff relayed the need to provide additional resources and more quality manpower, persons who want to make a difference in the lives of the young men.

Staff also noted that it is hard to get specialty positions such as nurses and psychologists filled with such a limited pool of candidates in the surrounding communities.

Another factor that reportedly heightened staff tensions was said to be the increase in the amount of documentation that reveals the extent to which policies are followed. Once staff have a disciplinary philosophy, it is reportedly hard to change that way of thinking. That mentality reportedly inhibits them from attempting to be more proactive and assertive. Furthermore, they do not want to take on more responsibility for fear of getting in trouble. Some staff reportedly feel that they have been unfairly punished, or that they are being used as scapegoats.

Although the Grievance Coordinator is considered at the facility to be full-time, she also serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, which in itself is a full-time position. It was noted that there has been an increase in the number of grievances, and the Coordinator has many other duties beyond handling the grievances. Therefore, she really cannot be considered a full-time Grievance Coordinator unless she is able to devote full-time to grievance processing duties. The staff appeared to understand that an increase in grievances can be considered a healthy sign, reflective of youth's confidence in the grievance process and absence of fear of retaliation for its good faith use. Further, use of the grievance procedure means that the youth are reporting the problems, which is a necessary part of solving them. It makes the staff aware of the problems, and gives them the opportunity and responsibility to address them.

## **INSPECTION**

### **Liberation Complex-Taft Unit**

The first housing unit visited during the inspection was Taft Unit in Liberation Complex. Taft Unit was described as a unit for non-compliant sex offenders, who have not completed their programming as required. On that date, there were 25 youth on the unit, along with one youth who was placed on the unit that day for refusing to be searched as a part of the facility shakedown.

There was one youth per double bunked room in this unit. There were two plastic beds and a table secured to the wall and a plastic stool secured to the floor. There was a toilet and sink in each room in this unit. There was also an isolation room on the unit. In the middle of the unit was an open area with two rows of chairs and four round tables and a television. There was also a dayroom with a stereo, game table, air hockey, television, video games, weight bar and several chairs. This day room was specifically for the higher-level youth, those youth who have acquired higher privilege levels based on factors such as behavior and treatment participation.

At the time of the inspection, lunch had just been delivered and there was an RN making rounds on the unit checking on youth. The showers on the unit looked clean with one chair placed in each shower. The showers were behind doors, identical to the doors on the youth's rooms, with a rectangular window panel in the center of the door. On the wall were monitoring logs signed by staff every 15 minutes as well as a listing of legal rights. There was also a locked grievance box and grievance forms on the wall near the door to the unit. Overall, the area was very clean, well lit and quiet. Youth appeared to be sleeping or reading quietly in their rooms. Some youth stood by the windows in their doors in an attempt to see or speak with members or staff of the committee.

Youth that spoke with the committee, relayed their opinions and concerns about the facility. One youth relayed that the place was "tight, but that it was safe most of the time." Another youth spoke of a gang assault on him, which happened the Friday before the inspection. The youth stated that a "hit letter" was sent two and a half hours before the assault from the gang leader to another youth to assault the other youth. Reportedly, the assault was to occur because the youth had worn gray socks. The youth that we spoke to reported that the assaulter was not locked down for what he had done even though the victim reportedly went to the emergency room and received 70 stitches on his face.

Another youth relayed that he was at ORVJCF in 2003. He said it was strict and safe and he liked it better then. The youth stated, "They refuse to do anything. They need to drop the camera, and they need to dunk these kids." The youth also said that kids are "walking all over" the staff. In the youth's opinion, first shift was okay, but second shift was "bad." He also stated, "The kids do not listen. They cuss staff out, and they act like idiots. They need to let them do what is necessary, but not get carried away."

CIIC staff spoke with one youth from Cincinnati who said he came from a group home, and this was his second time in DYS. He stated that he felt safe at this facility, even though there were more gangs this time. He also felt that the programming was helpful and gave him the tools necessary to help prevent relapse. Another youth stated that he did not do the crime that he was accused of and, therefore, would not admit to it and would not complete the necessary programming.

According to youth and staff the two gangs vying for power are the Head Busters and the Heartless Felons. Another youth stated that the assaults and violence at the facility are caused by gang disputes. It was in this unit where CIIC staff were told by youth that there had been a "riot" in the cafeteria a few weeks earlier. While some staff were quick

to discredit the use of the word “riot”, they did state that youth were involved in a fight in the cafeteria, which involved youth assaulting each other, using trays as weapons. In the clarification obtained later from administrative staff, it was relayed that the incident was brief in part due to the cooperation of youth in one unit who were responsive to the arriving staff, and staff’s immediate and effective response. Reportedly, one unit was nearly finished eating their meal, when staff erroneously and prematurely called for two additional units, which reportedly house rival gangs. Their contact reportedly triggered the clash.

### **Liberation Complex-McKinley Unit**

McKinley Unit was described as the low to moderate mental health unit with 19 youth on the date of the inspection. According to staff, most of the youth in this unit remain on the unit for the duration of their stay. This unit had the same overall set up as the previous unit being of triangular shape with one side consisting of staff offices and the officer’s central post near the door to the unit, which faced the sides comprised of youth rooms. There were signs on the wall listing such things as youth medication requirements and restrictions. There was a popular beanbag toss game set up on the floor. The unit also had several inspirational postings hung on the walls.

The isolation room was observed as clean, with some dust on the floor. The restraint bed appeared to be in good condition, but the room did have a foul odor of urine. The showers were clean and all other rooms appeared to be clean and well lit with no foul odors present. Once again, the youth on this unit were locked down and appeared to be asleep, finishing their lunch or writing.

One youth on this unit explained that he was supposed to be out in October but was skipped for programming because another youth needed to be in before him. According to this youth, he will now be out in January. He stated that the environment was okay but there are a lot of stressors with all the fighting among the youth. This youth stated that he is doing all right and that no other youth were harassing him or “taxing” him.

Another youth on this unit relayed that he is 18 years old. He had a noticeably black eye from a fight he had with another youth in his unit. This youth was reported to be from northern Ohio and he expressed some concern that no loved ones could visit him because of the distance between his home and this facility. He also said that staff were fair, but that grievances take too long to be answered.

During the inspection the CIIC spoke with facility staff. One staff member stated simply that mandating was “getting old.” He stated that lately, third shift staff cannot go home and are then placed on a unit where they are not familiar with the youth and they do not feel safe.

Another officer explained that he asked a youth to pull up his pants this morning and the youth then threatened to spit in his face. Reportedly, the youth then followed that threat with physical force, which caused the officer to activate his man down signal. The officer

stated that the youth was escorted to seclusion where he spent three hours. The officer relayed his concern that now he will be questioned about how he handled things.

Officers also relayed the need for structure and discipline. They stated that they are no longer allowed to have those things, and that staff are considered guilty until they are proven innocent.

In addition, officers commented that the facility is dirty compared to the shine just a year or two ago. They stated that it no longer sparkles because of the drop in overall morale and pride among staff and youth that they reportedly used to have in their facility. Lastly, officers stated that a motivational speaker came to the institution and told them, "Do not take it personal" and spoke of verbal strategies, but they said the training was not very beneficial.

One comment was made about Lighthouse Youth Center, where there is mutual respect between staff and youth. Officers commented that, "We used to have that here. If we could have that training, it would be wonderful!"

### **Liberation Complex-Hayes Unit**

Staff explained that Hayes Unit houses low to moderate needs sex offenders. The count on the date of the inspection was 25, plus an additional youth was placed on the unit for refusing to be searched on his original unit. Staff also noted that most youth in this unit are very young, quiet and non-violent. The unit setup is identical to those two units mentioned above.

One youth in this unit stated that he was given nine more months because the victim did not want him to be released. He explained that he had not been in trouble the entire time and has had no write-ups. This youth also stated that he felt good about the treatment programs for sex offenders and he could articulate the important points such as, victim awareness, empathy, triggers and coping mechanisms.

Another youth reported that he had his arm broken by a staff member while being restrained. Reportedly, this youth assaulted another youth and staff pulled him away. He stated that he had filed a grievance and had placed his name on the list to speak with legal counsel. CIIC staff spoke with another youth who reported that he was also involved in a use of force incident, which was supposed to be investigated, but he claimed that none of his witnesses were interviewed and they have since been released. He claimed that staff never filled him in on the investigation

Officers on this unit stated that problems have been created by the staffing shortage. One officer stated that it felt like all the control was gone. He stated that all departments were short staffed and now the youth do what they want. Staff on this unit expressed an overall concern about their safety and agreed that they do not feel safe. One officer expressed his opinion that youth receive more privileges than their victims such as things like play stations, etc. Officers on this unit expressed other concerns such as overtime mandates

and Central Office's control over hiring. Staff reiterated the comments of other officers who stated that staff morale was low and that staff are suffering from a big burn out from stress in the last year to year and a half. Another staff member stated that more manpower is definitely needed, but that the policies reportedly do not inhibit officers from doing their jobs.

Officers also stated that when the lawyers and child advocates came in, the pendulum swung all the way in their direction, which they felt led to officers losing all control. They said that 96 sprinkler heads were destroyed wasting 56,000 gallons of water and reportedly, there was hardly any punishment. One officer said there was a point when he had to watch a youth kick off the sprinkler head and was not allowed to go in his room and stop him. Officers even stated that they could not put youth in their room without first calling for a camera. Officers also said that even the treatment teams are going down hill. Violations are reportedly discussed by JCOs at these treatment team meetings, but allegedly, there is still no disciplinary action. Staff in this unit again told us about a "riot" in the cafeteria.

### **Liberation Complex-Grant**

The next unit visited during the inspection was Grant Unit, which was defined as the Intensive Programming Unit. The youth on this unit were described as assaultive and unable to behave in General Population. It was said that there were also gang members and some gang leaders housed on this unit. The unit was similar in set up to the previous units visited. On the date of inspection, there were 23 youth on this unit.

At the time of the visit, Grant Unit was undergoing a thorough search as a part of Operation Clear Out. It was relayed that the lockdown and search occurred as a result of rumors that some youth were planning some type of uprising at school on the following Monday. Members of the ODRC STAR Team, as well as, members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and other DYS staff were conducting this contraband search.

Youth in this area were extremely loud and clearly reacting to the number of staff who were present on the unit. There were youth who were kicking their doors or screaming gang related comments for everyone to hear. Some youth clearly had their gang affiliation marked on their jumpsuits. These symbols were being photographed and documented. Once again it was explained that the two major gangs of concern at this time are the Head Busters and the Heartless Felons.

There were different privilege levels in this unit. The different levels were clearly marked on each youth's door with either a red, yellow or blue sheet of paper. Youth whose door displayed a red piece of paper were described as being the newest to the unit with the least amount of privileges and the most time spent in their rooms. One CIIC staff member questioned whether those youth with the lowest level were considered 23 and one, meaning they spent 23 hours in their room with one hour out. It was explained that this is not necessarily the case, because even the youth with the most restricted privileges still get out of their rooms for more than one hour when you consider programming, showers,

etc. It was also explained that youth could work their way up the privilege levels and out of this unit with good behavior.

As a result of the ongoing search, CIIC staff did not get to speak with many youth in this unit. However, one youth did state that the staff at this facility are “nicer” than the staff at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Another youth stated that he joined a gang because everyone at home and in his family is in a gang so it is the only thing he knows.

One interesting observation made outdoors after exiting the unit, was that a group of youth were walking, most with their hands behind their back, with one hand holding the wrist of the other hand. This was cited in 2005 as a previous practice at the institutions that had been stopped. It was explained that youth reportedly still perform this action out of habit.

### **Innovation Complex-McGuffey Unit**

McGuffey Unit was the first general population unit visited during the inspection. The rooms in this unit were double bunked and were not “wet cells,” meaning the rooms do not have the toilet and sink that was found in the rooms on the other units. However, the isolation room on this unit does have a toilet and sink and was currently occupied by a youth who had been placed there not as punishment, but for overflow purposes. The youth in the general population units share communal restrooms with four rooms assigned to each restroom. There are 24 rooms in this unit.

In the center of the unit was row seating along with six round tables, each with four chairs. There are also game tables and a television in the open areas of the unit. There is also a small dayroom off the main area with a television, books and game tables. Several postings could be seen throughout the unit on such subjects as rules, legal rights and mail instructions. It was explained that the three general population units all shared the same design.

Staff on this unit also seemed to echo the same concerns voiced by staff in other areas of the facility. One staff member stated that the new staff do not seem to have the same “tools” as they used to. Regarding tools, one officer stated that he was taught different grip and escort techniques, but now cannot use them anymore. He stated that officers are now trained to “Ask, tell and then make.” He also stated that the youth laugh at the camera and act out even more to show off on tape. One officer expressed his opinion that power had been taken away from the staff. He stated that it was hard to be “in charge,” yet still need to make a call before doing anything. He explained that if he were to anticipate something happening, he would still need to call his supervisor before he could take any action.

Another officer stated that there was a cultural barrier between staff and central office. One staff member commented that there just are not enough staff to work with youth, and the ratios need to be adjusted because there seems to be a correlation between the number of incidents and decreased staffing levels. Along with talk of needing more officers, there

was also talk of needing more social workers, as well as, additional staff for the Unit Administrator so he or she can spend more time on the unit with the youth. Also relayed was concern that the creation of safety management plans was so time consuming that there needed to be additional staff to deal with issues on the unit. Lastly, comments were once again made about the need for change on second shift. One staff member stated that there needs to be more interaction between staff and youth on second shift when incidents increase and youth seem to be harder to manage.

### **Aviation Complex-Rickenbacker**

Rickenbacker was the final unit visited during the inspection. This was also a general population unit and set up in the same way as the other general population unit mentioned above. As with all other units visited, the youth were locked down. This unit was very quiet but appeared to be more in need of cleaning than any of the other units visited. However, the dirt was reported to be due to the DRC and Highway Patrol staff entering and exiting the unit during the shakedown. Overall, the general population units appeared to exhibit the most wear and tear.

### **Medical/Dental Services**

The medical staff at ORVJCF reported that the medical facility operates 24 hours a day and all staff are state employees. The waiting area was clean and there were no youth present due to facility lockdown. There were several chairs in the waiting area with shelving for informal/educational pamphlets. However, almost all of the pamphlets were gone. The patient room floors appeared to be in need of cleaning.

Staff noted that the clinic was built for a smaller population. Staff commented that they wished the treatment rooms could be larger in addition to desiring more space overall. Staff explained that the dentist also visits twice a week and works on a contractual basis, performing routine cleanings and fillings. It was reported that wisdom teeth are not pulled on site. However, the dental clinic does have X-ray capabilities. The dental area was clean with two patient chairs.

Staffing was also noted as a concern in this area, as it was reported that they are down one RN and are still at the same staffing level as they were when the count was 200. As stated above, count on the date of inspection was near 350 youth. It was reported that there were four FTE (full time equivalent) RNs on days, three FTE RNs on evenings, as well as another FTE RN and one part time RN who works ten-hour shifts. According to staff, the doctor visits one to two times per week depending on the caseload.

Staff relayed that they are making an effort to work on the continuity of care. It was relayed that unscheduled visits are up, with 2,200 last month, compared with 1,595 the prior month, and 1,077 the prior month. Administrative staff later clarified that the significant increase may partly be due to the fact that all youth were medically checked following the alleged “mini-riot” or cafeteria disturbance a few weeks earlier.



## **Visitation**

The visitation area is a large room, which was very colorful and well lit. The area was very clean. There are 10 tables with four chairs each, and vending machines are available, as well as a microwave. There are very large murals on the walls, all around the room, which were painted by or with the help of youth at the facility. The murals were nicely done, showing symbols of peace and patriotism. There was also a table for an officer to observe visits.

It was explained that all visitors must present a State I.D. or Driver's License as well as complete the required forms, which are mailed to the parent or guardian of the youth at the time of his placement. The Youth Handbook includes several pages of information regarding visitation rules and procedures. According to the website for the Ohio River Valley JCF, visitation hours are 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Saturday and Sunday with additional visitation requests handled by the youth's social worker.

## **EXIT SESSION**

As is the case with all inspections, the CIIC member and staff end the day with an exit session or closing, which summarizes the observations and ensures that the Superintendent is aware of any concerns noted throughout the day and has the opportunity to respond to those concerns. The CIIC staff noted how much they appreciate such open and friendly staff at the facility. However, concern was expressed over the reported and observable decrease in morale. Such was obvious in speaking to staff and evident in the lack of cleanliness in some of the areas.

The number one concern among staff and youth was clearly safety and security. Several staff blamed the situation on litigation and stated they were afraid of the youth and the youth knew it. Several staff commented on having to make phone calls and get the camera before they could take any action. Administrative staff clarified that this was reported to be planned intervention and in certain situations, staff could act immediately. There seemed to be miscommunication between staff and the administration because the line staff in the units consistently relayed the opposite.

Staff relayed that some staff have crossed the line to the point of abuse and their actions are being scrutinized to protect the youth, as well as, the integrity of those staff who are following policy. As of the date of the inspection, two officers were reported to be on administrative leave. In addition, one staff member is on no youth contact status, and one had just turned in her resignation that morning. It was relayed that most of the time, youth who cause disturbances are dealt with in accordance with policy. However, some youth know how to exploit the weakness of policy and procedure and those dangerous youth are not dealt with appropriately, which leads to other youth trying to see what they can get away with.

It was explained that the newest officers are often times placed on second shift, which has the most amount of free time for youth and often the most incidents as well. New staff on probation do not want disciplinary action and therefore may avoid dealing with youth.

There is no full time Security Threat Group Coordinator. However, staff relayed that they are working to reinvent the master schedule in an effort to reduce the number of incidents by increasing the amount of programming for youth, especially on second shift.

Another frequently mentioned concern was that of mandated overtime, which staff acknowledge creates stress and burnout. Most experienced officers are on first shift and it was stated that collective bargaining controls unit placement in mandated positions. Staff relayed that they may fill positions, and currently they have 11 new staff members in pre-service. However, it was relayed that the length of time necessary from the time an employee is hired, and when they actually get to the institution can be months. This reportedly leads to other officers resigning before the new officers get to the facility. This creates more positions and the cycle continues. It was reported that the current training schedule also creates a disruption and contributes to the shortage by taking staff off of the units where they are needed most. For example, the verbal strategies training mentioned by some officers required 15 staff to a class and it was three full days long.

The alleged mini-riot in the cafeteria was also a major topic of discussion. Staff relayed that it was certainly intense, but it was more of a fight than a riot.. Apparently, the youth involved in the incident came from two units, McGuffey and Rickenbacker and were members of rival gangs. There was also another unit in the cafeteria, but they did not become involved. The incident lasted only a few minutes and no staff were injured. Reportedly, three youth had to be restrained and one youth received a minor injury. One issue was the number of staff in the cafeteria. Another issue was the fact that not only was there more than one unit in the cafeteria at a time, but the units that were there were reportedly rival gangs.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**STG Issues:** A full time, trained Security Threat Group Coordinator is needed to focus exclusively on the gang issues of concern. Full time, trained central office security threat group staff are needed to do the same system-wide. The DRC method of dispersing and separating gang members appears to be the opposite of the reported DYS method, both at the system-wide level and at the facility. The gang members are bold and proud, blatantly advertising their membership on their uniforms. Action should be taken to demonstrate that gang activity will not be tolerated, for the sake of the youth who are victimized or who are learning to be predators, and for the sake of the staff. Youth relayed that they want programs to help them to address their problems and needs, but gangs reportedly are so disruptive that they prevent them from benefiting from programs.

**Consequences:** Youth misconduct should have immediate, meaningful consequences. Youth relayed that the lack of such consequences is the reason why youth are reportedly out of control. Some youth longed for the way ORVJCF used to be, when staff reportedly demanded and earned respect from youth through rules and consequences, which protected youth as well.

**Staff Turnover/Safety:** Staff turnover likely correlates with conditions in the workplace. Focus should be placed on doing what must be done to make the facility safe, and to help the youth and staff to feel safe.

**Staff Tools:** Staff need to have a menu of options to be able to be responsive to problems of youth brought to their attention, such as separations, room moves, unit moves, and transfers. It is recommended that such a menu be created so that staff truly are in a position to help when a youth seeks assistance.

**Safe and Separation Unit:** One valuable tool that could be made available to staff is a Safe and Separation Unit, where any youth who needs to get away from his unit may be secure until staff can look closely into his situation and find the best option. Staff and youth relayed that many of the youth in the "gang" unit are there "to hide out" from safety problems in general population. System-wide, many report that youth feign being suicidal due to safety problems in their room or unit. A Safe and Separation Unit can serve the same purposes and functions as Security Control in the adult prison system, including but not limited to safekeeping pending outcome of investigation into protection needs.

**Age Separation:** It is strongly recommended that youth be separated by age, with the youngest (13-15) definitely separated from the oldest (18-20). Reportedly, gang members in the older group are using and misusing those in the youngest group, and the mere lack of separation by unit and by room makes that possible.

**Learning Lighthouse Methods:** The CIIC Report on the On-Site Visit and Evaluation of the Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek of November 16, 2006 concluded with the following:

The Lighthouse Youth Center has some significant similarities to the Missouri model that has been studied by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The most significant aspect of the Center is its environment, not only the place, but the staff, the youth and the culture created which appears the very opposite of the culture of juvenile correctional institutions. *It is strongly recommended that DYS look into the extent to which the Lighthouse Youth Center program, methods and staff training can benefit the current staff in the DYS institutions who seek tools to prevent and address behavior problems of youth.*

## **DYS REPORT RESPONSE**

On November 8, 2007, the following communication from the DYS Director to the CIIC Director was received in response to this report. In addition, a meeting is being scheduled with several DYS staff and the CIIC Director to discuss the report in more detail. The memo reads:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with our responses to the September 28, 2007 Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (C.I.I.C.) report on the unannounced inspection at Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility. I would like to thank you and the other members of the C.I.I.C for all your hard work and dedication to Ohio's criminal justice system.

I appreciate your assistance in delivering a thorough inspection report. The report has identified issues that we have already begun to address, like the high number of physical interventions with an emphasis on verbal strategies. It also signaled areas that we should consider for review such as the youth handbook. The department will examine, and if necessary revise, the handbook to ensure that it is consistent with our policy.

As you know, the department has implemented a number of new projects and initiatives. These programs, which were mentioned in my testimony last week, are designed to improve and/or enhance facility operations. An initiative like our new, structured hiring process has been in effect for over a year now. Staff realignments will result in effective unit management as well as an increase in staff availability to youth during the evenings and weekends. Verbal strategies training for staff continues for the remainder of the year and will continue with every youth being trained in 2008. The Phoenix Gang program, based on the New Jersey model, will guide its participants to develop practical self-efficacy in identifying and addressing the highest risk factors for gang involvement, violence, substance abuse and other crimes. While visiting ORV, I know you had the opportunity to see our staff in the new JCO uniforms; an additional change to facilitate a rehabilitative environment.

It is my belief that these initiatives will assist us in enhancements to Ohio's juvenile justice system, some of which you noted in your report. As you know, my executive staff and I would be more than happy to sit down and discuss further these new initiatives or any specific concerns, with you or members of the inspection committee. Again, thank you for sharing with us the report on Ohio River Valley.

## RESPONSES TO JUVENILE EXPECTATIONS

In the initial meeting with the Superintendent, the CIIC Director requested that the Superintendent and his staff provide responses to a number of questions based on the Juvenile Expectations by Great Britain's Inspectorate of Prisons, which consists of criteria for assessing the conditions for and treatment of juveniles in custody.

Following a brief introduction to Juvenile Expectations, the responses from staff of the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility to the questions are provided below.

### HM Inspectorate of Prisons Juvenile Expectations: Criteria for Assessing the Conditions for and Treatment of Children and Young People in Custody

#### Introduction

Expectations provides a tool to examine every area of life in the institution. They are designed to assist inspectors in their work and inform others of the outcomes. Four key tests are applied in each inspection to determine the 'health' of a young offender institution:

- **Safety:** Children and young people, even the most vulnerable, are held safely.
- **Respect:** Children and young people are treated with respect for their human dignity.
- **Purposeful activity:** Children and young people are able and expected to engage in activity that is likely to benefit them.
- **Resettlement:** Children and young people are prepared for release into the community, and helped to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

The criteria reflect best practices and international human rights standards in relation to the treatment of children. The text contains four sections as follows:

#### Section 1. Arrival in Custody:

Courts, Escorts and Transfers,  
First Days in Custody

#### Section 2. Environment and Relationships:

Residential Units,  
Relationships Between Staff and Children/Young people,  
Personal Officers

#### Section 3. Duty of Care:

Safeguarding,  
Bullying,  
Self-harm and Suicide,  
Child Protection,  
Race Relations,

#### Section 4. Activities:

Time out of cell

The survey responses were provided to the CIIC Director from the Superintendent on October 10, 2007. The Superintendent relayed that he completed a couple of the sections, while other members of the administrative team provided some input, especially when it was their area of expertise. It was noted that the questions that were not applicable were left unanswered and/or simply identified as N/A.

## **SECTION 1 - ARRIVAL IN CUSTODY**

### **Courts, Escorts and Transfers**

- Children and young people travel in safe, decent conditions to and from court and between different establishments.
  - During movement the individual needs of young people are recognized and given proper attention.
1. Separate transport facilities exist to ensure that youth are always transported separately from adult prisoners. Girls and boys are transported separately.

**Yes.**

2. The use of video link facilities are actively promoted, unless a youth has a preference for attending court.

**Not with the courts.**

3. At least quarterly meetings are held between escort staff, prison staff, and court managers to promote improvements in the efficiency of escorting procedures. Escort staff are encouraged to contribute to safer custody and security procedures.

**Yes.**

4. Youth are held in cellular vehicles for the minimum possible period of time.

**Yes.**

5. Escort staff consistently use respectful language when speaking to, or about youth.

**Yes.**

6. Youth are given information at court about what is going to happen to them, in a language and format they can understand.

**Yes.**

7. Youth are produced at court on time.

**Yes.**

8. Youth are given 24 hours' notice of planned transfers, so that they can make a telephone call to their family, next of kin and/or legal adviser. (Subject to well-evidenced security consideration.)

**No.**

9. Youth are given adequate meals at all meal times during the day of their movement to court or different facility.

**Yes.**

10. Youth have access to appropriate clothing so that they do not have to wear uniforms for court appearances.

**No.**

11. Property and private cash details always accompany sentenced youth who are being transferred.

**Most of the time.**

12. Youth are escorted in vehicles that are safe, secure, clean, and comfortable with adequate storage for their property.

**Yes.**

13. Appropriate vehicles are used to transport youth with a disability or other condition such as pregnancy, which would make traveling in standard escort vans uncomfortable in a comfortable and dignified manner.

**Yes.**

14. Youth are not handcuffed while under escort unless in exceptional circumstances and a risk assessment indicates that this is a necessity.

**No.**

15. Youth in transit are treated according to their individual needs, based on written information accompanying the young person and staff observation.

**Yes.**

16. Youth are offered comfort breaks at least every two hours with additional stops when necessary. Hygiene packs are provided for girls on escort.

**No two-hour breaks.**

17. Youth are held in court cells for the minimum possible period

**Yes.**

18. Youth arrive no later than 7:00 pm so that they are dealt with in accordance with the establishment's reception and first night procedures.

**Most of the time.**

19. Youth can give feedback on their experiences while under escort, through a well-published comments or complaints procedure.

**Yes.**

### **First Days in Custody**

- Children and young people feel safe on their reception into the establishment and for the first few days.

**Yes.**

- Their individual needs, both during and after custody, are identified and plans developed to provide help.

**Yes.**

- During induction into the establishment, young people are made aware of establishment routines, how to access available services and given help to cope with being in custody.

**Yes.**

1. Escort staff pass on all information/official documentation arriving with a youth to reception staff. This information is used to inform initial reception assessments of the youth. Sensitive information is dealt with appropriately.

**Yes.**

2. A vulnerability strategy to protect vulnerable youth is in place. Vulnerability assessments are completed for each newly arrived youth before they are locked up for the first night.

**Yes**

3. Youth are greeted courteously by establishment staff. The gender ratio in the reception area is appropriate to receive youth and to undertake procedures in a reassuring way.

**Yes.**

4. Youth experience a safe, clean and welcoming reception environment.

**Yes.**

5. Youth are routinely asked if this is their first time in a youth correctional facility and treated accordingly.

**Yes.**



6. The immediate individual needs of the youth are identified on arrival in reception and their individual circumstances are dealt with sensitively.

**Yes.**

7. Youth entering custody are searched sensitively and in accordance with the security risk they pose. Strip-searching does not form part of routine reception procedures but is carried out only when a risk assessment indicates that this is necessary to protect the youth or others from serious harm.

**All youth are strip searched upon transfer.**

8. Youth's hygiene needs are catered for in reception and they are able to have a shower before being locked up the first night.

**Yes.**

9. Youth are able to make one free telephone call in private on reception within two hours of arrival. There are arrangements in place for answering inquiries and receiving information from families, friends and youth offending teams.

**Within 24 hours.**

10. Staff, if possible the youth's personal officer, are able to spend time with the youth after they have made contact with their family and before they are locked up for the night.

**Yes.**

11. Youth are held in reception for as short a period of time as possible.

**Yes.**

12. Youth do not spend long periods of time with nothing to occupy them in reception. Staff are proactive in engaging with youth.

**Yes.**

13. Youth in reception are offered drinks and hot food regardless of their time of arrival and within an hour of arrival.

**Not always hot food.**

14. All youth are seen and assessed by healthcare staff in private on arrival.

**Yes.**

15. All youth are assessed by a member of the substance misuse team in accordance with the national substance misuse strategy for juveniles.

**Yes.**

16. Property held in storage is secure, and youth can access their property within 48 hours of making an application.

**Yes.**

17. All information and assessments undertaken in reception are drawn together and copies passed to first night staff and thereafter retained on the residential unit.

**No.**

18. All establishments have a specific strategy for helping youth to settle in on their first night in custody.

**Yes.**

19. Essential information about the establishment is always provided in a variety of accessible formats (written, oral, video) to enable youth to cope with the first 24 hours of custody.

**Yes.**

20. All youth are given information about sources of help available, including the chaplaincy team, buddies and Samaritans, in appropriate languages. All youth are explicitly offered the chance to speak to a peer supporter or a first night officer and a member of the chaplaincy on their first night and the following morning.

**Yes.**

21. Youth who may require protection are given information confidentially about how they will be protected. The duty officer interviews any youth applying for protection.

**Yes.**

22. Staff introduce themselves to new arrivals on the wing and wear identification that clearly displays their name and status. Information about youth's needs is communicated between staff sensitively.

**Yes.**

23. Youth are supported on their first night in custody by staff who are conversant with a range of key procedures such as suicide prevention and mental health issues and have particular understanding of adolescent behavior. These officers ensure that any particular needs or immediate anxieties are addressed before the youth is locked away for the night.

**Yes.**

24. Any initial anxieties that youth shares with any member of staff are documented and brought to the attention of first night staff.

**Yes.**

25. First night accommodation has been prepared and is clean and provides a comfortable environment.

**Yes.**

26. Youth are not allocated to a cell until a cell sharing risk assessment has been carried out.

**Done while at SJCF.**

27. Staff, if possible the personal officer, spend time with the youth as soon as they are unlocked following the first night in custody in order to assess how the youth is coping and, if appropriate, to update the vulnerability assessment.

**Yes.**

28. Youth are given a pack in reception containing a telephone card or PIN phone credits and basic items. They are told how long the pack is expected to last. Repayment methods do not affect future family contact.

**No credit cards or phone cards.**

29. All youth new to the establishment or whose status has changed after a court appearance receive a full program of induction, irrespective of their residential location.

**Yes.**

30. Induction starts on the first full working day following reception.

**Yes.**

31. Youth are inducted by trained staff in a designated induction area that is quiet, age appropriate and free from interruption. There is an emphasis on motivating youth to achieve during their time in custody.

**Yes.**

32. All youth are told during induction how to make routine applications and formal complaints.

**Yes.**

33. Youth are kept fully occupied through a comprehensive, structured and multi-disciplinary induction program. They understand what the induction is trying to achieve and how to progress through it.

**Yes.**

34. Youth are given practical help to:

- Preserve their accommodation and employment or college or school place.

**Yes.**

- Pursue legitimate work and social interests where appropriate

**Yes.**

- Pursue their legal rights

**Yes.**

- Obtain help with personal problems

**Yes.**

- Keep in touch with their family and friends

**Yes.**

- Pursue a healthy lifestyle in custody

**Yes.**

35. Youth are helped to understand the information through reception and reinforcement by staff. Particular account is taken of language and literacy needs.

**Yes.**

36. During the induction program, youth have the opportunity for individual interviews with induction staff, which is recorded in individual records.

**Yes.**

37. By the end of induction, youth have met relevant staff from different departments, and have been introduced to their personal officer. Youth know what work, education, vocational training or offending behavior courses are available and how they will be allocated to an appropriate activity through the training planning process. They are aware of how to get information and deal with problems.

**Yes.**

38. All assessments completed during the induction period are available at the youth's initial training planning meeting.

**Yes.**

## SECTION 2 - ENVIRONMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS

### Residential Units

- Children and young people live in a safe, clean, decent and stimulating environment within which they are encouraged to take personal responsibility for themselves and their possessions.
- 1. Boys under 18 held in establishments holding young adults up to the age of 21 are located separately in residential units, which provide an age appropriate and safe environment.

**No, we do not divide by age but we are aware.**

- 2. Cells/Rooms and communal areas are clean and tidy, light, well decorated, age appropriate and in good state of repair.

**We require youth to clean and maintain a clean environment, no decorations in the room but the unit is decorated.**

- 3. Youth have access to drinking water, toilet and washing facilities at all times.

**Yes, unimpeded access.**

- 4. All youth have access to an in-cell/room emergency call bell that works and is responded to within 5 minutes.

**Yes, intercom.**

- 5. Where appropriate, youth have privacy keys to their cells/rooms

**No youth have keys to anything.**

- 6. Observation panels in cell doors remain free from obstruction.

**Yes.**

- 7. A clear policy prohibiting offensive displays is applied consistently.

**Yes, no tolerance.**

- 8. Staff ensure that communal areas are safe, paying particular attention to areas of higher risk such as the showers and areas where constant supervision is more difficult.

**Yes.**

- 9. Staff ensure that youth feel safe in the cells/rooms, paying particular attention to the difficulties associated with verbal abuse via windows.

**Staff are required to conduct 15 minute room checks when in room and 30 minute at night.**

10. Notices are displayed in a way that ensures that all youth, including those with literacy, language or eyesight difficulties, are able to understand the message.

**Yes**

11. There is at least one telephone per 20 youth on each wing. There is a system in place that ensures fair access. Telephones are located in quiet areas with effective privacy hoods.

**Yes, no privacy hoods but in quiet areas.**

12. Monthly wing representative meetings are chaired by a staff person to enable youth to raise any concerns about their living environment. There are incentives to ensure that youth are actively involved in this process.

**Weekly and monthly meetings are held, house meetings based on the unit needs.**

13. Residential units are as calm and quiet as possible both to avoid incidents and to enable rest and sleep, especially at night. Residential units hold no more than 40 youth at any time.

**We maintain noise levels as best we can, we have more than 40 youth per unit on most.**

14. Youth are permitted to wear their own clothes. For those who do not have sufficient for their needs or if the quality is inadequate, there is enough clean establishment clothing of the right size, quality and design to meet their individual needs, including an outdoor jacket.

**We do not permit own clothes, we provide sufficient amount of clothes.**

15. Youth have at least weekly access to laundry facilities to wash and iron their personal clothing. Youth should also be given practical support to assist them in these domestic tasks.

**We wash weekly, no ironing only on specialty units for transitional living.**

16. Property held in storage is secure, and youth can access their property within one week of making an application.

**Yes, no application needed.**

17. Youth are fairly compensated for clothing and possessions lost while in storage.

**Yes**

18. There is a standard list detailing the possessions that youth are allowed to keep.

**Yes, personal possessions and property control**

19. Volumetric control of property takes account of the individual needs of different youth.

**Unsure what is being asked.**

20. Youth are encouraged, enabled and expected to keep themselves, their rooms and communal areas clean. In order to achieve this, youth are given practical help to carry out these tasks.

**Yes, all youth through orientation.**

21. Youth are able to use both communal and in-cell/room toilets and showers in private.

**Yes**

22. Youth are encouraged and enabled to shower or bathe daily, and immediately following physical activity, before court appearances and before visits.

**Daily, not before visits unless special occasion.**

23. Youth have access to necessary supplies of their own personal hygiene items and sanitary products.

**Yes, plus commissary.**

24. Freshly laundered bedding is provided for each new youth on arrival and then on at least a weekly basis. A monitoring system is in place, which results in the efficient replacement of soiled mattresses.

**Yes**

25. Rooms for youth are routinely equipped with bedspread and curtains.

**Youth have bedspreads but not curtains.**

### **Relationships between Staff and Children/Young People**

- Children and young people are treated respectfully by all staff, throughout the duration of their custodial sentence, and are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and decisions.

**Policy requires this and we deal with staff that do not meet expectations.**

- Staff listen, give time, and are genuine in their approach.

**Most staff.**

- Healthy establishments should demonstrate a well-ordered environment in which the requirements of caring for children in a secure, controlled environment in which the requirements of security, control and welfare are balanced and in which all children and young people are treated fairly and kept safe from harm.

**Yes.**

1. All youth are treated with humanity, and with respect.

**Yes, violations are dealt with.**

2. Staff deal with youth as individuals and are aware of their different needs.

**Yes, will implement trauma informed care in future**

3. Staff are aware that they should set a personal example in the way they carry out their duties at all times. This applies to the formal and informal conduct of staff, as well as to the working relationships that youth observe taking place among staff.

**Yes, Ethics training, professionalism training to all staff.**

4. Staff are always fair and courteous and demonstrate an appropriate level of tolerance of normal adolescent behavior in their day to day working with youth.

**Yes, violations are dealt with.**

5. Staff positively engage with young people at all times and interaction between staff and youth is encouraged by senior management team.

**Yes, violations are dealt with.**

6. Residential staff collaborate with the youth's family to provide a network of support.

**Yes, Social Worker is the family contact person.**

7. Staff should routinely knock before entering rooms, except in emergencies.

**Yes.**

8. 'Please' and 'thank you' are routinely used by staff when addressing children and young people.

**Yes.**



9. Youth are encouraged and supported to take responsibility for their actions and decisions.

**Yes.**

10. In facilities that operate a separate case worker/manager scheme (for training plans), these relationships complement rather than undermine those between the youth and residential staff.

**Yes, Social Worker, JCO and Managers build the unit team to work with the youth and they incorporate all other areas as needed, psych, medical, dietary, etc.**

### **Personal Officers**

- Personal officers are the central point of contact for children and young people, providing frequent purposeful contact within the establishment, and proactively establishing and maintaining links with external agencies and friends or families.

1. Within 24 hours of arrival in custody, every youth is:

- Allocated a personal officer and introduced to them/or their named substitute personal officer

**Once assigned to a unit, staff are assigned and orientate youth.**

- Given information about the personal officer scheme, and what they can expect from their personal officer.

**All youth are orientated to ORV and the unit assigned. This includes JCO expectations.**

2. Personal officers are identified and their role is explained through displays of posters and other information across the establishment.

**Only through meetings with the youth, treatment team, orientation and daily contact.**

3. Personal officers are trained to equip them with the skills to carry out their duties.

**Yes, six weeks of training prior to starting, 40 hours yearly.**

4. Personal officers are trained to complete vulnerability assessments and regularly update the assessment.

**No, this is an administrative tool. They do conduct daily inspections of units for vulnerable areas.**

5. If a youth requests to speak with his personal officer urgently, every effort is made to ensure that they can do so without delay. Alternatively, the substitute officer responds to the request.

**Yes, face to face or via intercom system.**

6. Personal officers are aware of the individual needs of the youth they are responsible for and actively help them to access the services they require or respond to any matters they raise.

**Yes, information on youth is shared at treatment team about their goals and JCOs are responsible as outlined in UCP to assist in meeting goals.**

7. Parents/caregivers and youth offending team workers are able to discuss any anxieties they may have about a youth with the personal officer at times other than scheduled training planning conferences.

**Yes, parents are free to call anytime to speak to anyone. We also schedule special staffings with parents.**

8. Personal officers are proactive in maintaining at least weekly contact with the youth for whom they have responsibility.

**They have daily contact.**

9. Personal officers maintain accurate records of their contact with the youth for whom they are responsible in their wing history files, identifying any significant events affecting them.

**All documented through the treatment team process.**

10. All relevant background information is available to the personal officer on the residential unit. The personal officer routinely discusses the youth's training plan targets with them, monitors progress and motivates or encourages as appropriate.

**Yes, required through treatment team and the UCP goals and responsibilities.**

11. Personal officers or their substitute attend all training planning meetings. Every effort should be made to ensure that the personal officer attends the first meeting held by the youth offending team, following the youth's discharge into the community.

**Four times per month, treatment team.**

12. Personal officers assist youth to contribute to their training planning meetings.

**Treatment, UCP goal setting process.**

13. Personal officers attend all meetings and reviews concerning the youth for whom they are responsible, including training planning meetings, child protection case conferences or strategy meetings, and reviews of the rewards and sanctions scheme.

**Level system and UCP through treatment team.**

14. Personal officers advocate on behalf of youth, act as a significant adult, and try to empower them.

**Treatment team evaluation form completed by each officer.**

15. Youth are able to apply to change their personal officer if they feel the relationship is not supportive enough.

**No, based on union contract JCOs have biding rights to a post. A youth may select someone else to use as support.**

## SECTION 3 - DUTY OF CARE:

### Safeguarding

- The safety of children and young people is a paramount consideration in the development of all policies and procedures.

**Yes.**

- There is a clear safeguarding strategy drawing together key policies designed to keep children and young people safe.

**Yes.**

1. There is an overarching children's safeguarding strategy overseen by a safeguarding committee, the remit for which includes violence reduction, child protection, anti-bullying and suicide and self-harm prevention. There are clear operational links between the respective child protection, anti-bullying and suicide and self-harm committee.

**Yes.**

2. The youth safeguards committee meets at least quarterly and includes representatives of the local social services and senior staff from all departments within the establishment, including all residential units, education, vocational training and the PE department. Senior staff from psychology, probation, social work, healthcare and chaplaincy also attend. Attendance is closely monitored and any absenteeism is urgently followed up.

**The department follows a different, more comprehensive menu to evaluate the overall effectiveness of policies and procedures.**

3. The youth safeguards committee reviews all referrals relating to child protection, anti-bullying and self-harm and suicide and their outcomes and monitors emerging patterns or trends.

**Yes, through a variety of data gathering systems.**

4. Families and friends, youth workers and social workers are seen as valuable sources of information to help keep children and young people safe. They are encouraged, through local arrangements, to provide sources of information which may help identify those youth likely to be bullied or who have a history of violent or self-harming behavior.

**Yes.**

## **Bullying**

- Children and young people feel safe from bullying and victimization (which includes verbal and racial abuse, theft, threats of violence and assault).
  - Active and fair systems to prevent and respond to bullying behavior are known to staff, children and young people and visitors, and inform all aspects of the regime.
1. An effective anti-bullying (violence reduction) strategy is in place and is based on an analysis of the pattern of bullying in the establishment. The strategy includes how to protect victims.

### **We use SMP plans for aggressors and safety plans for victims.**

2. Bullying issues are addressed by a multi-disciplinary anti-bullying committee. The committee sits at least once a month, including the superintendent and senior managers representing all disciplines as well as wing representatives.

### **No, we do address bullying behaviors in treatment team.**

3. All incidents of bullying are recorded and aggregated data is analyzed at regular intervals to establish any patterns or trends.

### **YBIRs used as documentation and IDC.**

4. Allegations of bullying behavior are treated consistently and fairly and investigated thoroughly.

### **All allegations are investigated and progressive discipline followed.**

5. Proven incidents of bullying should be analyzed and used to inform preventative measures.

### **We are tracking trends, conducting IDCs.**

6. All incidents of bullying are carefully investigated to determine whether they should be formally considered within the establishment's child protection and/or suicide and self-harm procedures.

### **All allegations are investigated and notifications made if needed.**

7. Valuable property is security marked routinely before it is issued.

### **Yes, tool control policy.**

8. Effective supervision by staff at all times provides protection for youth in all areas of the establishment.

### **We do the best we can and follow policies.**

9. Youth are confident about reporting incidents of bullying behavior without fear of reprisal.

**No, we are working to change this.**

10. Youth are made aware of behavior that is unacceptable through a well-publicized policy. This is designed both to deter bullies and reassure potential victims of bullying. Inappropriate behavior is consistently challenged and not condoned.

**Yes, treatment team, counseling, IDCs, confrontation of behavior.**

11. Youth have unhindered access to support provided by accredited external organizations. Independent advocates are informed of youth who have been bullied.

**We provide access to legal services, advocates and family. We report abuse issues through policy.**

12. Youth are consulted and involved in determining how their lives in the establishment can be made safer, how bullying is confronted, how conflicts can be resolved, and what sanctions are appropriate.

**Student council, house meetings, processing group**

13. Anti-bullying measures support victims, and allow them to remain on normal location. Ongoing checks are made to ensure that they remain safe from further bullying. Approaches such as mediation and restorative justice are used as part of a range of interventions.

**PREA policy keeps victims in place, safety plans.**

14. The behavior of youth who have been identified as bullies is specifically addressed as part of a coordinated program of individual behavior management. The same targeted approach is used to support victims.

**IPU Program, SMP Plans are used to deal with bullies.**

15. Records are completed comprehensively, and include how young people who bullied others and those who were victims were dealt with and why.

**IDC copies are kept in main file.**

## **Self-Harm and Suicide**

- Children and young people at risk of self-harm or suicide are identified at an early stage, and a care and support plan is drawn up, implemented and monitored.
  - Assessment of risk/vulnerability is an ongoing process.
  - Children and young people who have been identified as vulnerable should be encouraged to participate in appropriate purposeful activity.
  - All staff are aware of and alert to vulnerability issues, are appropriately trained and have access to proper equipment and support.
1. A multi-disciplinary suicide and self-harm prevention committee monitors establishment policy and procedures effectively. The committee includes a suicide prevention coordinator, and a member of the local community mental health team.

**DYS policies related to suicide and self-harm prevention are written, monitored and revised by Central Office in consultation with Psychology Supervisors in the institutions. Each institutional Psychology Supervisor is the designated suicide prevention coordinator in his/her position as the mental health authority at the institution.**

2. All incidents of self-harm or attempted self-harm are carefully investigated and monitored.

**Per DYS policy, all incidents involving self-harm are referred to the Operations Department, Medical Services and Psychology. All youth engaging in self-harm are seen for a precautionary stated assessment.**

3. Following any incidence of self-harm, a detailed care and support plan is prepared and regular reviews take place.

**In any incidence of self-harm, youth are placed on a precautionary status (Suicide Watch, Observation or Behavioral Status) and closely monitored by institutional staff. These plans are reviewed on a regular basis by the Unit Administrator, Treatment Team and Psychology Staff.**

4. All incidents of self-harm or attempts are routinely referred to the child protection coordinator and the anti-bullying coordinator.

**All Psychology staff are mandatory reporters in the Ohio Revised Code. Any precautionary status assessment that produces allegations, evidence or suspicion of child abuse are referred to the Social Work Supervisor for referral to the local child protective agencies.**

5. All incidents of self-harm or attempts are recorded and aggregated data is analyzed at regular intervals to establish any patterns or trends.

**Monthly data is collected regarding placements on Suicide Watch, Observation and Behavioral Status. This data is available in the DYS mental health database and is additionally reported in the psychology monthly report to administration. Trends and patterns are considered at both institutional and Central Office level.**

6. Investigations of self-inflicted deaths are commenced within 72 hours of the death.

**This is provided by current DYS policy.**

7. An action plan is devised and acted upon as a result of an investigation into an apparent self-inflicted death.

**The self-inflicted death of a youth is investigated and corrective/action plans are developed. Due to the emotional impact of such an event on peers and institutional staff, an action plan is also developed and conducted at the institution. A Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) is often used.**

8. All information accompanying youth, such as pre-court reports, post court reports, assets and vulnerability assessments, is retained on the residential units so that staff are readily able to access all relevant information about the youth in their care.

**Staff have access to precautionary status assessments and management plans. All psychological, psychiatric and mental health assessments are stored separately in the Psychology Department as required by the State of Ohio Board of Psychology regulations in the Ohio Revised Code.**

9. Youth who are assessed as vulnerable (rather than at risk of self harm) are not automatically dealt with through the formal monitoring procedures. They are managed on normal location unless there are contrary reasons. Risk of self-harm is carefully assessed and, in the absence of such a risk, a vulnerability management plan is drawn up in accordance with the required documentation.

**Psychological, sexual and physical vulnerability and social risk is assessed at DYS Reception Center. Youth who are deemed at risk are transferred to an institution with a referral to the appropriate professional department. Vulnerability is managed through various options including Special Management Plans, Precautionary Status or PREA policy.**

10. All relevant information about youth at risk of self-harm or suicide is communicated to supervising officers and workers and to families where appropriate. The local authority is informed in the case of a child in their care or looked after by them.

**Results of a Precautionary Status placement are provided to the Operations Department, which in turn contacts family members. When youth are in the legal custody of an agency or community-based program that organization is notified of any placement on Precautionary Status.**



11. Attempts are made to deal with the underlying causes of the self-harming behavior. This includes a specific interview with the youth following each incident by a member of staff competent to undertake this sensitive task.

**All youth, engaging in self-harm behaviors, are seen by qualified members of the Psychology Staff. Each intervention includes a discussion of causes, reasons, their rationale and their goals related to the self-injurious behavior. Each intervention also includes an informal Mental Status Examination to assess the youth's current emotional state.**

12. Any youth who has been assessed as vulnerable or has threatened self-harm is not left alone until a proper risk assessment has been carried out.

**Any youth who threatens suicide or self-harm, or who engaged in self-injurious behavior is immediately placed in full view of the institutional staff until a Precautionary Status assessment is complete.**

13. Youth who are assessed as vulnerable or at risk of self-harm are encouraged to engage in appropriate purposeful activities, programs, and courses that will raise their self-esteem and reduce the risk of further self-harming behavior.

**Youth involved in a Precautionary Status or mental health intervention are seen for counseling and intervention by Psychology Staff. They are encouraged to read books and materials related to self-esteem, impulsive control, anger management and treating depression. These materials are typically provided by Psychology Services.**

14. Care for youth considered to be vulnerable or at risk of self-harm or suicide is undertaken in such a way that other youth are not made aware of their vulnerability.

**All interventions related to suicide and self-harm are confidential. Placements in Precautionary Status are obvious on the living units but the reason for such placement remains confidential.**

15. Youth subject to formal, self-harm observation procedures, are observed with due regard to their individual need for privacy.

**Youth on Suicide Watch or Observation are provided special clothing and limited privacy. Total privacy is inconsistent with the requirements of Suicide Watch or Observation and would be considered a high-risk behavior due to the risk of self-harm involved.**

16. Youth have unhindered access to sources of help, including counselors, youth workers, chaplaincy team, at all times. A care suite is available and sufficient in size to cater for the needs of the population.

**Youth on a Precautionary Status are provided unlimited access to other professionals at the institution. Arrangements are made on each unit to ensure privacy of professional/clergy communications.**

17. Trained counselors are accessible to youth and are used as part of multi-disciplinary teams to deliver educational, therapeutic and other health promoting aspects of the regime.

**The institution has counselors of various professional disciplines available including licensed professional clinical counselors, drug/alcohol counselors, guidance counselors, licensed social workers and psychological psychotherapists.**

18. All staff (including night staff) are fully trained in suicide prevention and understand contingency and intervention plans.

**All staff receive a mandatory training in both the suicide prevention policy and the contingency plans in the event of a youth's self-harm behavior. This same training program is repeated each year as part of our yearly mandatory training.**

19. Newly arrived youth identified as vulnerable and not on formal monitoring procedures, are known to night staff, and particularly first night officers, who are kept informed of their particular needs.

**Newly arrived youth are quickly identified and oriented to the living unit by JCOs on the shift. Risk factors such as PREA status or current placement on Precautionary Status are shared with the officers on the unit.**

20. Youth at risk of self-harm or suicide receive continuity of all aspects of their care regardless of where they are located in the establishment, including the healthcare center.

**All aspects of institutional care continue despite placement on a Special Management Plan or Precautionary Status. Healthcare, psychiatry, dental and nursing consultation continue without restrictions.**

21. A policy of supplementing history records with information from external sources is actively pursued by staff with particular reference to youth who have undergone a change of status or received bad news.

**An effort is made to verify all information related to a report of receiving bad news from home. This may include consultation with the family, law enforcement or child protective agencies.**

22. Youth are encouraged to express their anxieties in the knowledge that these will be taken seriously and acted upon and that they will be listened to. The role of the personal officer in this respect is explicit.

**JCO staff are trained and encouraged to listen to all youth reports and complaints. DYS policy provides for appropriate intervention, response and referral when youth information suggests a risk for self-harm, suicide, homicide or escape.**

23. Designated staff manage the recruitment, training, work and support of peer supporters (or equivalent), and youth are encouraged to volunteer as peer supporters whatever their offense, status or sentence, subject to risk assessments. Peer supporters are well supervised and supported.

**Each institution has a Volunteer Coordinator who recruits, organizes and provides community-based peer and adult volunteers to various programs at the institution.**

24. A support plan in the community is instigated prior to release from custody.

**All youth are transitioned into their community through programs provided by the Release Authority and the DYS Regional Offices. Prerelease arrangements are made with community school, mental health treatment programs and/or vocational programs. Plans are also developed for youth who may have placement or living problems upon return to their community.**

### **Child Protection**

- The establishment provides a safe and secure environment, which promotes the welfare of the children and young people in its care, protects them from all kinds of harm, and treats them with dignity and respect.
  - There is an openness on the part of the establishment to external agencies and independent scrutiny, including openness with families and the wider community.
1. There is a comprehensive child protection policy, which has been agreed by the local area child protection committee. There are procedures in place to regularly review and revise the policy to take account of up to date guidance from the Department of Health and others.

**Local Department of Health regularly reviews food service and school. ODYS policy and procedures takes precedence over other areas.**

2. There is a child protection committee, which meets at least monthly chaired by the child protection coordinator who is a senior member of the establishment's staff. This committee reports regularly to the safeguarding committee.

N/A.

3. The Superintendent is a member of the main committee of the local area child protection committee and attends this regularly.

**No.**

4. Senior staff of the local area child protection committee are members of the establishment's child protection committee and make an active contribution, including in the staff training programs.

**No.**

5. The establishment has a code of conduct informing staff of their duty to raise legitimate concerns about the conduct of colleagues and managers (a whistle-blowing policy) in relation to the treatment and management of children.

**Yes.**

6. The child protection log is held securely with access granted to the duty officer.

**Yes, filed through the AMS System, Copies are kept in operations office.**

7. The log fully records all child protection referrals, the outcomes of investigations, and the stage that those as yet uncompleted have reached. The log is reviewed monthly by the Superintendent, the child protection coordinator, representatives of the local area child protection committee, the Youth Justice Board monitor, and the area manager.

**No, ORVJCF has a comprehensive system to report abuse or neglect. Not necessarily as described here.**

8. All staff working in establishments holding children and young people under the age of 18 are subjected to enhanced criminal records bureau checks.

**Yes.**

9. All staff are trained in child protection procedures and are knowledgeable about how to implement the establishment's child protection procedures. Staff receive specific training in respect of handling a disclosure made to them by a youth. Staff are offered ongoing supervision and support following their involvement in a disclosure.

**Yes.**

10. Following admission and during the induction process, youth are informed about the establishment's procedures to protect them from bullying, peer pressure, and/or any form of abuse or neglect. Specifically, they are informed about how they will be protected in cases where harm has occurred or has been threatened.

11. Vulnerability assessments are carried out by staff that are trained and competent to do so and are able to make connections with child protection implications. Vulnerability assessments are regularly reviewed and monitored by senior staff that are competent to identify potential child protection concerns. Vulnerability assessments are routinely reviewed during training planning meetings.

**The department has conducted a similar assessment focusing on rape.**

12. Allegations by youth of bullying assaults and abuse by their peers are routinely considered for child protection implications.

**Yes.**

13. Youth have access to a range of trusted adults outside the establishment e.g. a family member, the youth's offending team worker or social worker, a youth advocate. They are also told about the help they can receive from independent advocacy services, external mentors such as Childline.

**Youth have free access to the ombudsman, the grievance process and youth's attorneys.**

14. Arrangements are in place to provide appropriate support to youth during the investigation stage following allegations of abuse during their period in custody and following disclosures of historic abuses.

**Have access to regular staff away from those that the allegations are made toward.**

15. The establishment provides a range of therapeutic, counseling, and advice services, either directly/or through external providers, which are available to youth who have suffered any form of abuse.

**Yes, Social Workers and or psychology staff.**

### **Race Relations**

- All children and young people experience equality of opportunity during every aspect of their time in custody, are treated equally and are safe.
  - The idea that different people have different backgrounds and values is introduced to young people as an integral part of communal living.
1. All staff demonstrate an understanding and promote respect for ethnic and cultural groups. Inappropriate language or conduct by staff or youth is challenged.

**Overall, yes. Staff that resort to inappropriate use of language are dealt with.**

2. All staff in all units are trained in cultural, racial and diversity issues.

**Yes, annual inservice.**

3. A race relations management team, chaired by the Superintendent or Deputy and including youth and external community representatives, meets at least quarterly to discuss issues of race and review ethnic monitoring data and any racist incidents. Youth who act as representatives are properly supported so that they are able to participate actively.

**N/A.**

4. All race relations management team members including youth's representatives are at various times required to act as members of a working party, which actively seeks to promote race relations throughout the establishment. Youth are helped by staff to take an active role.

**N/A.**

5. The team appoints a representative to monitor and promote race relations in the establishment. This person is committed, trained, and fully supported by the team.

N/A.

6. Youth and staff know the identity of, and are able to contact members of the team.

N/A.

7. The team's representative's facility time is continuous with a minimum of eight hours per week dedicated to the role.

N/A.

8. The team's representative is also a member of the establishment's anti-bullying committee and checks with the victim of any bullying/victimization whether there was any racial element and monitors trends.

N/A.

9. Monitoring of ethnicity is conducted, recorded and made available to all units and regime providers within the establishment. Any disproportionate patterns of trends are investigated.

**We review the racial balance of various units where youth are housed.**

10. There is an effective system in place for reporting and dealing with discrimination against youth and visitors. The investigating officer is fully trained, and a member of the race relations management team.

**Yes.**

11. All racist incidents reported are investigated thoroughly and appropriately, within the specified timeframes and necessary action taken.

**Yes.**

12. Completed investigators of racist incidents are monitored at random, by the Youth Services Race and Equalities Action Group.

N/A.

13. Interventions for challenging racism are in place.

**I believe so through staff reporting and interventions.**

14. The team carries out a race relations needs analysis at least annually, devises an action plan, and monitors its progress.

N/A.

15. Impact assessments of all locally implemented policies and functions are undertaken to assess their relevance to race equality.

**N/A.**

16. There is effective consultation with youth on all matters relevant to race equality.

**Yes.**

17. There is effective communication to staff and youth concerning their public duty in relation to race relations, and both receive effective training in delivering this.

**Yes.**

18. Displays throughout all areas of the establishment portray images that reflect the diversity of the population.

**Yes.**

## SECTION 4 - ACTIVITIES:

### Time Out of Cell

- All children and young people are actively encouraged to engage in out of cell activities and the establishment offers a timetable of regular and varied extra-mural activities.

**Yes, a master schedule outlined times out of room. It is required that youth come out and participate all day, no fallbacks allowed.**

1. Children and young people are out of their cells for at least 10 hours a day.

**Yes.**

2. Daily routines for children and young people, including association and exercise, are publicized on every wing and adhered to consistently.

**Master schedule, followed daily but may change based on institutional need.**

3. Out of cell activities, including association and exercise are only cancelled in exceptional circumstances. Where this arises, children and young people are given a full explanation about the reasons.
4. Children and young people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities have the opportunity to participate in activities that meet their needs.

**Yes.**

5. Enrichment activities take place and include hobby groups for children and young people during periods of association, organized by staff using their own interests and experience.

**Community service projects, leisure time activities.**

6. Children and young people are encouraged to take part in educational recreation.

**Yes.**

7. Children and young people have the opportunity to complete homework in a quiet private space.

**We do not have homework. Special cases may occur and we have accommodated those circumstances.**

8. All children and young people are encouraged to engage in out of cell activities and a record is kept of individuals who have not participated.
9. Children and young people attending any out of cell activity are enabled to attend regularly and punctually.

**Yes, YBIRs issued, noted in logbook.**



10. All children and young people, including those in healthcare and special units such as the care and separation unit, are given the opportunity for at least one hour of exercise in an appropriate location in the open air every day.

**Yes.**

11. Children and young people are given the opportunity of at least one hour of association every day.

**Yes, free time.**

12. Out of cell activities, including association and exercise, are supervised effectively by staff, and children and young people feel safe, especially those who may be at risk of self-harm or bullying.

**We provide at least three to four staff for supervision at recreation, one to two staff for a unit outside. We also make accommodations for youth who feel unsafe without safety plans.**

13. All children and young people have the use of properly equipped areas for association and exercise.

**Yes.**

14. Staff actively engage with children and young people during association and exercise time, and contribute to the quality of their free time.

**Daily when we have enough supervision for the youth.**

15. All children and young people are issued with enough warm, weatherproof clothing and shoes to go out in all weather conditions.

**Yes.**

## **RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON CORRECTIONAL FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following questions are based on the 16 recommendations of the Correctional Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force. The responses provide information that is helpful in monitoring the extent to which progress has been made in implementation.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

1. Is DRC/DYS being encouraged, wherever practical, to use faith-based and community programs that address documented criminogenic needs? How? By whom?

**Yes, the Director and local administration have made it clear that they expect an increase in this type of programming.**

- a. Is DRC/DYS in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, making available to the faith community, examples of evidence-based programming shown to impact offenders' lives? What examples? How are they being made available?

**Not that I am aware of.**

- b. Is information being used and disseminated to faith-based and community organizations so that they provide programs that are evidence based and can truly impact the lives of ex-offenders and their families?

**No**

- c. What is in place to ensure that the recommendation is implemented?

**Each facility and region has a reentry committee that is responsible for implementing the recommendation.**

- d. What methods of program evaluation are being explored to further document program success? What methods are in place?

**I don't know of any method of evaluation.**

2. Is the DRC/DYS Director working with wardens/superintendents to develop programs that will facilitate a cultural change in institutions to encourage collaboration with faith-based and community service providers? How? What programs have been developed?

**Yes, there is a training program being implemented throughout DYS to train employees in verbal strategies.**

- a. Is the culture within the institution continuing to evolve to encourage community volunteers? Explain.

**No, we are so short on staff that no one has the time or energy to spend on volunteer programs.**

- b. How is the warden/superintendent supporting and encouraging a cultural shift and institutional change as a day-to-day practice to encourage community volunteers?

**Mr. Nelson has given me a lot of freedom to use volunteers wherever I can but as I stated above, the conditions within the facility make it very difficult to implement new programs.**

- c. How is the DRC/DYS administration working with wardens/superintendents to collaboratively develop protocols that will proactively assist with changing the culture?

**I do not know.**

- d. Have such protocols been developed?

**Unknown.**

- e. What are they?

**Unknown.**

- f. Have policies been reviewed to determine if they might inhibit use of community volunteers, and have necessary changes been made accordingly?

**Not that I am aware of. We were told last year that the policies were being reviewed but I have not seen any drafts or revisions.**

- g. What policies have been reviewed? By whom?

**Unknown.**

- h. What policies have been changed so that they do not inhibit use of community volunteers?

**None.**

- 3. Has DRC/DYS developed a marketing plan to assist in recruiting volunteers from the community and faith-based institutions?

**Yes, DYS has the Reentry Roadmap.**

- a. Does the plan discuss educating volunteers about the justice system?

**Not that I am aware.**

- b. Is there a need to increase programming for incarcerated offenders to improve the likelihood they will be reintegrated into the community successfully upon release from prison? What programming exists? What programming is needed?

**Yes, there is a reentry program called JOBS that assists a few offenders from the most populated counties with reentry. We need this type of service for every offender.**

- c. Is the faith community being encouraged to volunteer to provide programs and services to assist offenders in both the institutions and the community? How?

**Yes, several events have been held to recruit volunteers for these purposes in the most populated areas.**

- d. Has a marketing plan been developed to overcome the public's misperceptions of offenders?

**Not that I am aware.**

- e. Has DRC developed an educational program to motivate the faith community to get involved in volunteering, including a video to educate volunteer groups about offenders and their needs in institutions?

**I do not know.**

- f. Is information provided on how individuals and groups can volunteer in the prisons?

**Yes.**

- g. Does the marketing campaign include information on the needs of the adult/youthful offenders, information on how the justice system works, and information on the different ways to volunteer?

**I do not know.**

4. Has DRC/DYS developed a standard training program for staff, volunteers, and the community to facilitate working in institutions together? Explain.

**Yes, there has been a new training program developed for training volunteers and staff. There is also a presentation intended for community groups.**

- a. Does the program include information on:

- 1. Ethics of working with offenders?

**Yes.**

- 2. Confidentiality issues?

**Yes.**

- 3. Ensuring safety and security of volunteers?

**No.**

- 4. Working with volunteers?

**No.**

- 5. Rules and regulations for volunteers?

**No.**

- b. Does the program include information to volunteers on the security requirements for the institution, why the requirements are in place, and how to properly work with offenders?

**Yes.**

- c. Has a standardized training program been developed for volunteers to facilitate their work in institutions?

**Yes.**

- d. Has DRC/DYS established an orientation program for volunteers, held at preset intervals to allow community organizations to plan for the training as part of their program planning?

**No.**

5. Has Ohio law been revised to remove unnecessary and unreasonable collateral sanctions, which inhibit offenders' successful reentry?

**Not that I am aware.**

6. What improvements have been made regarding communication about programs and services between:

- Staff and volunteers?

**Unknown.**

- Staff and the community?

**Unknown.**

- Other parts of the criminal justice system and the community?

**Unknown.**

- a. What improvements have been made in effectively communicating among staff within the facilities, as well as with the community?

**Unknown.**

- b. Has an improved communication mechanism been developed in order to ensure these efforts?

**Unknown.**

- c. Has the system been developed collaboratively with staff and volunteers to address observed problems?

**Unknown.**

## **ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION**

7. Has the statute been revised to increase judicial use of community options for non-violent offenders so prison space can be reserved for violent offenders?

**Not that I am aware.**

- a. Working with faith-based and community service providers, have programs been developed in the community to effectively provide treatment while protecting public safety?

**Unknown.**

- b. Has the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission reviewed additional options to encourage judges to use these community options rather than sending non-violent offenders to limited prison space?

**Unknown.**

- c. Have local probation departments prepared a listing of community options currently available for judicial use?

**Unknown.**

- d. Have faith-based and community programs contacted local probation departments through the Juvenile Court, Common Pleas Court, and Municipal Courts to inform them of programs and services available? Explain.

**Unknown.**

8. Are faith-based and community programs being encouraged to supplement existing community and diversionary programs for offenders and to provide services that are not currently available? How?

**Not that I am aware.**

- a. Is DRC/DYS working with community organizations and probation departments to expand services available for offenders? How?

**Unknown.**

- b. Has a community model been created that will help meet the basic needs of offenders within the community? Is it being created? Explain.

**Unknown.**

9. Has DRC/DYS taken a more active role in linking with the faith-based community to develop programs to meet the gaps in services to adult and juvenile offenders? How?

**Not that I am aware.**

- a. Has DRC/DYS reviewed current grant or subsidy programs to determine eligibility for faith community programs, in order to increase the number of faith-based and community programs available to judges for sentencing?

**Unknown.**

- b. Following identification of funding sources, is DRC/DYS actively working with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to provide information to these organizations on funding availability? How? What is in place?

**Unknown.**

- c. Is the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives providing technical assistance to the faith community to assist them in developing competitive applications for state and federal funding?

**Unknown.**

10. Has DRC/DYS, and Job and Family Services expanded efforts in partnership to work with employment centers and the faith community to increase practical employment opportunities for offenders in the community? Explain.

**Not that I am aware.**

- a. Has a job placement program been implemented?

**Unknown.**

- b. Does it provide:

- Information on job fairs to ex-offenders?

**Unknown.**

- Education of businesses/employers on the benefits of hiring ex-offenders?

**Unknown.**



- Incentives for employers to hire ex-offenders (i.e., tax breaks)?

**Unknown.**

- Increased involvement of faith-based and community groups?

**Unknown.**

- c. Is there collaboration between the DYS, DRC and Job and Family Services who started the employment centers in Ohio? In what way?

**Unknown.**

- d. Has a program been implemented with the goal to get jobs for offenders upon release, and also to match them up with jobs of interest to the offenders, specifically ones at higher wages and skill levels, if possible? Explain?

**Unknown.**

- e. Has the DRC Omnibus Reentry legislation been enacted to reduce unnecessary sanctions in the law and thus made training more relevant?

**Unknown.**

## **INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMMING**

11. Is DRC/DYS working with the faith community and faith volunteers to develop and expand programs within the institutions?

**Yes.**

a. Do current programs include the following? Are they being developed? Are they being expanded?

**We currently have some of these things in operating but as I noted earlier, the conditions in the facility make it very difficult to begin new programs.**

- Life skills?
- Financial management and budgeting?
- Personal hygiene?
- Family programs including:
  - Family and community-based orientation?
  - Family mediation?
  - Family education and orientation program?
  - Transportation and video conferencing for visitation?
  - Parenting?
- b. Dynamic risk factors that impact offender behavior and risk of reoffending include: antisocial personality, companions, interpersonal conflict, social achievement, substance abuse, and criminogenic needs. Treatment programs can influence and change offender behavior during the time they are in an institution. Programs that address criminogenic needs are programs designed to change offender attitudes, cognitions, behavior toward authority, employment instability, education, housing, and leisure time.

Is DRC/DYS working proactively with faith-based and community groups in the development of programs that will meet the criminogenic needs of offenders in institutions? How?

**Yes, we have personally contacted many community leaders, businesses, churches, schools and individuals about participating in this program.**

c. Have specific life skills programs been developed in the following areas?

**Yes, we have developed a program for budgeting and finance.**

- Budgeting?
- Parenting?
- Job searches?
- Anger management?
- Appropriate leisure-time activities?

d. Is emphasis centered on using a mentor-type relationship for such training?

**No.**

e. Has legislation created a new community-based reorientation program whereby non-violent offenders could be released to the community up to 30 days prior to the expiration of their sentence to arrange for suitable employment, housing, treatment services, etc.?

**Not that I am aware.**

f. Have video-conferencing opportunities for the families, particularly children of offenders, been expanded? Are they used as an incentive program?

**Yes, I believe they are using it as an incentive.**

g. Do volunteers facilitate the improvement of family relations through coaching in basic relational skills or involvement in family mediation programs?

**Not that I am aware.**

12. Has DRC/DYS expanded partnerships with national organizations including faith-based and community organizations to provide programming in state institutions? Explain.

**Not that I am aware.**

a. Does DRC/DYS have a stated plan for the extent of their involvement in prison programming that specifies any limitations seen as necessary? What is it?

**Unknown.**

13. Does DRC/DYS involve the faith community when appropriate, in the development of release plans for the offender that flow from the institution to community reentry? Explain.

**Not that I am aware.**

- a. Are community actors and organizations a part of reentry planning for those offenders who will shortly be returning home? Explain.

**There are community organizations that work with a few of the youth from the most populated counties.**

- b. The best ideas and programs will serve no purpose in helping offenders live out productive lives after their release if there is no effective community follow-through. Is there effective community follow-through?

**I do not know.**

- c. Is there a mentorship program for offenders at your facility?

**Yes, on a limited basis as stated above from some religious groups.**

- d. Are faith-based and community volunteer groups actively developing such a program for participation by offenders at your facility? Explain.

**Yes, I have a group of volunteers that are trying to network with churches in the communities where the youth are released.**

## **REENTRY PROGRAMMING**

14. Have methods been developed to increase and encourage the involvement of the faith community in various reentry efforts, and to encourage collaboration among faith groups? What are they?

**Only in the most populated counties.**

- a. What has been done to make the faith community aware of programs and training for the faith community's involvement?

**Reentry events held for that purpose.**

- b. What has been done to create awareness among the faith community of the needs of ex-offenders and the avenues to get involved?

**As stated above and by word of mouth in our local community.**

- c. What effort has been made to inform the faith community of the needs of ex-offenders and volunteer opportunities available?

**We have contacted many people personally.**

- d. Have leaders among the faith community been identified? How? When?

**Yes, through personal contacts several leaders have come forward to help.**

- e. Have staff been used to accomplish this, using existing organizations, groups and established relationships? Explain.

**Yes, many staff have helped in this process.**

- f. Has this educational opportunity been extended to faith groups of all kinds?

**Yes.**

- g. Has an easily visible section been added to the DRC (or DYS) web site for the faith community that identifies different programming opportunities for volunteers?

**Not that I am aware.**

- h. Does the section contain volunteer opportunities linked to specific communities in Ohio, including contact information for volunteer coordination within each department or institution as needed?

**Unknown.**

15. Are offenders informed of various housing options before leaving prison or immediately upon release? How is this done?

**I do not know.**

- a. Although the offender is no longer in prison, he/she is still subject to housing restrictions due to the crime committed (i.e. sex offenders), which creates more difficult circumstances and specialized needs. Are seminars, with free legal or consultation services provided, along with increased involvement of the faith community?

**Unknown.**

- b. Is legal advice in these situations available? Have partnerships been formed with local law schools to achieve this end?

**Unknown.**

- c. Are presentations by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development provided to ex-offenders to provide information on their options upon leaving prison, and knowing how to navigate through the many restrictions placed on them?

**Unknown.**

- d. How has DRC/DYS made better use of existing federal programs that aim to address the issue of housing?

**Unknown.**

16. Has DRC/DYS partnered with grassroots and community organizations in an educational effort towards the general public aimed at decreasing the negative stigma of ex-offenders and making the public aware of the needs involved in the process of reentry? What has been accomplished and how?

**Not that I am aware.**

- a. What educational efforts have been made to:

**Unknown.**

- Assure the public that their best interest is at hand, that public safety is not at risk, but will improve with these efforts, and to
  - Inform the public of the many needs of ex-offenders to help them transition successfully back into society?
- b. Are grassroots agencies and advocacy groups being made aware of and sold on this effort, so that they can help to market the increased public safety and reduced criminal justice costs associated with effective offender reentry? How?

**Unknown.**