



Scioto
Juvenile
Correctional
Facility
Interim
Inspection

September 15, 2011

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Report Coordinator

SECTION I. INTERIM INSPECTION OVERVIEW

CIIC Inspector Jamie Hooks conducted an interim inspection of Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (Scioto JCF) on September 15, 2011. The visit included an inspection of the recently renovated housing unit (Unit PROGRESS), a walkthrough of the Unit PROGRESS education classrooms, and interviews with a cross section of youth throughout the facility. Overall, the interim inspection was positive.

SECTION II. KEY FINDINGS

- **Gang activity and fighting within the facility.** The primary concern relayed by several youth interviewed was increased gang activity and fighting on campus. Youth stated that their level of safety has decreased and that the level of gang activity at the facility has increased since Ohio River Valley JCF youth were transferred to general population at Scioto JCF. Ohio River Valley JCF permanently closed earlier this month (September 11, 2011).

Youth commented that the “hot spot” for assaults is within the school building, as this is the only time and place that youth from different housing units are intermixed. In fact, on the day of the inspection a fight occurred in the school building prior to the lunch hour.¹ When asking youth what changes they would make at the facility, several suggested that youth be separated by housing unit within the school building. They believed this would eliminate many of the recent assaults and fights.

Each youth interviewed was asked to rate his/her perceived level of safety on a scale from one-to-ten, with ten meaning the youth felt “very safe” and one meaning the youth felt “very unsafe.” The average level of safety reported by youth was 6.5, with most youth rating their safety between a 5.0 and 7.0. Most youth did not relay any personal safety concerns, just that the increase in fighting lowered their safety rating. Only one youth rated his safety level below a 5.0, stating that the facility was unpredictable and that “you never know when someone might bust on you (referring to the school building).”

- **Facility conditions.** Overall, Scioto JCF was very clean, orderly, and well-maintained. The interim inspection included walkthroughs of several housing units and the dining hall, with no observable sanitation or maintenance issues.
- **Positive staff-youth interaction.** Several youth made positive remarks regarding the staff at Scioto JCF, stating that staff are helpful, caring, respectful, and that they “do a good job.”
- **Newly renovated Unit PROGRESS (Program with Real Opportunity for Growth, Responsibility, Education, Safety and Success).** Youth rooms in the unit were converted to “wet” rooms (i.e. youth rooms equipped with a sink and toilet) to facilitate

¹ Staff were very responsive and quick to resolve the altercation.

Scioto JCF receiving the special management youth population from Ohio River Valley JCF after its closure. The unit includes 18 youth rooms, but only 14 were in use. On the day of the inspection only two graduate youth were present on the unit, as the rest of the unit was at school. Overall, the unit was very clean, including youth rooms, showers, and the large common area. For more information regarding this housing unit, please reference the CIIC inspection checklist, below.

- **Unit PROGRESS classrooms.** Youth assigned to Unit PROGRESS attend class in a separate building, which is different from how education was delivered at Ohio River Valley JCF. At Ohio River Valley JCF, special management youth received educational services in a classroom located in their housing unit. The education facility for Unit PROGRESS youth consists of two classrooms in a nearby building. Staff relayed that having classrooms in a separate building is nice for youth and good for their spirit because it allows them to get fresh air, as well as a change of scenery.

The CIIC interim inspection included a walkthrough of the new classrooms. The atmosphere in the classrooms was calm, orderly, and free of any tension. Upon entrance, all youth were on-task, engaged in their lesson, and receiving instruction from their special education teacher. A youth specialist is also assigned to the classrooms and she appeared to have a good rapport with the youth.

AREA INSPECTED: NON-DORM UNIT

HOUSING UNIT: ^{Unit} Progress (cedar)

Youth Count: 14 (can have 18)

		COMMENTS
1. What is the activity of the unit upon entrance?	In-room <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive <input type="checkbox"/>	+ at school w/ except. of 2 graduate youth
2. What is the atmosphere of the unit upon entrance?	Calm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tense <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. How clean are youth rooms? (1=very unclean, 10= very clean)	10	newly renovated
4. How clean are common areas? (1=very unclean, 10= very clean)	10	
5. How many are inoperative?	Toilets - 0 Sinks - 0 Showers - 0	
6. How clean are shower facilities? (1=very unclean, 10= very clean)	6 showers 1- accessible (handicap)	
7. How often are shower facilities cleaned?	daily by youth	
8. How clean are vents? (1=very unclean, 10= very clean)	10	
9. Are cleaning materials kept secure?	YES NO	
10. What is the room temperature?	-	
11. Is the current CIIIC memo posted?	YES NO	
12. Are the commissary, programs, and library schedules posted?	YES NO	
13. Are kites in stock on the unit?	YES NO	N/A for youth units, but all necessary contact forms in stock.
14. Are grievance forms in stock on the unit?	YES NO	
15. Are health service request forms in stock on the unit?	YES NO	

16. How many room door windows are obstructed?	zero	
17. How many Youth Specialists are on duty per shift?	1 st - 3 2 nd - 3 3 rd - 2	
18. Are Youth Specialists performing regular security checks? -Log observed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
19. How many room searches are performed on each shift? -Log observed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		- each youth room checked daily
20. Are laundry facilities operational?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	- sent out but have wash/dryer in unit if youth prefer to wash own
21. Are all phones operational?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
22. Are all drinking fountains operational?	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A <input type="radio"/> NO	Removal from locker unit, but all ages youth rooms have a sink
23. Are youth room/unit lights turned on all night (excluding security lights)?	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	- just dim lights for security
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (including youth communication): <p>* 2 classrooms created in neighboring building for PROGRESS youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - during inspection youth observed engaged in computer work w/ instruction from Spec. Ed. teacher - atmosphere of classrooms very calm/orderly. 		