



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF SOUTHEASTERN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

AUGUST 31, 2021

Facility Overview

Southeastern Correctional Institution (SCI) is a Level 1 (minimum) and Level 2 (medium) security male prison. The facility opened in 1980 and is located on 35 acres in Lancaster Ohio. The initial design capacity for SCI was 1,125. As of August 31 2021 the institution housed 1,434 offenders. As of September 1, 2021, the institution employed 334 total staff of which 180 were officers.

Highlighted Facts

- During the inspection, SCI was managed by Acting Warden Charles Riley. SCI is managed by Warden Jarrod Robinson.
- In attendance at the inspection were CIIC staff.
- SCI has lifted COVID-19 restrictions that had once suspended programming, and have returned to full program offerings.

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- All housing units' cleanliness levels were rated acceptable or exceptional throughout the visit.
- Correctional Officer vacancies, turnover of staff in the current job market, nursing vacancies, and COVID-19 responses were identified as the current challenges at the institution.
- Offenders identified that drug trade and theft occur as gang activities. The top substances reported as available were tobacco, suboxone, and marijuana.

Health and Wellbeing

- Medical facilities were toured and appeared clean orderly, and were providing services to offenders at the time of inspection. The medical building consisted of a dental clinic, pill call area, shared exam rooms, Doctor's office, Administrator office, file room, Dietician office, lab room, tele-med room, and Nurse Practitioner office.
- The food service director reported there were nine vacancies at the time of inspection with two positions actively in the process of being filled. Both manager positions were vacant. A food service staff person from another facility was filling in to assist with staffing levels.
- Temperatures and serving sizes of meals were appropriate, and the overall taste was acceptable.

Fair Treatment

- Ten informal complaint responses were reviewed and responses were within policy timelines. The responses, however, did not tend to address the offenders' concerns. One complaint was regarding destruction of personal property of an offender by a staff member. A report to the Warden for review of the incident was being prepared at the time of inspection.
- The Inspector reported the top areas of complaints to be regarding mail screening, supervision, and property. It took an average of 2.82 days for staff to answer informal complaints and 4.49 days to answer inmate grievances.
- The TPU unit consisted of cells with most cells holding three offenders, requiring offenders to bunk on the floor which is not in compliance with ODRC policy 55-SPC-02 nor American Correctional Association (ACA) standards 4-4141 and 5-ACI-4B-06.

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- The library at SCI appeared to be clean with a sufficient supply of diverse material. The library is currently under renovation, being approximately 80% complete, and would be finished in the near future.
- SCI offers four vocational programs: horticulture, rough carpentry, welding, and plumbing. All areas were clean, orderly, and conducive to learning.