



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF WARREN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Facility Overview

Warren Correctional Institution (WCI) is a close security male prison, housing Level 3 (close) security offenders. The facility opened in 1989 and is located on 45 acres in Lebanon, Ohio. The rated capacity for WCI is 680. As of May 18, 2021, the institution housed 1,145 offenders. As of May 1, 2021, the institution employed 335 total staff, of which 194 were officers.

Highlighted Facts

- WCI is managed by Warden Wanza Jackson-Mitchell.
- In attendance at the inspection were Representative Jean Schmidt (House District 65) and CIIC staff.
- On the March 4-6, 2020 American Correctional Association (ACA) Reaccreditation audit, the institution scored 100% compliance for 58 applicable, mandatory standards, and 99.8% on the 426 applicable, non-mandatory standards. The area of non-compliance was for unencumbered cell space.

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- All dayrooms, cells, and showers were rated as good. All JPay kiosks, phones, washers/dryers, water fountains, ice machines, and microwaves were in good working order.
- The facility recently had a shower renovation project and cell lock update, which was appreciated by unit officers and unit staff.
- The top substances reported as available were suboxone, alcohol, and marijuana. The top activities reported to gang activity were assaults and extortion.

Health and Wellbeing

- WCI medical facilities appeared clean and orderly.
- Mental health facilities consist of outpatient services, a Residential Treatment Unit (RTU), and a Day Treatment Program (DTP). Outpatient services consist of staff offices and group areas.
- Serving sizes and temperatures of the meals presented to CIIC staff were appropriate and overall taste was acceptable. Staffing levels of Aramark kitchen staff were reported to be very low: five out of ten positions (50%) were vacant.

Fair Treatment

- Of the ten informal complaint responses (ICR's) reviewed, all responses were professional, and within policy timelines. Of the ten grievances responses reviewed, all were responded to by the Inspector, and were within the timeline set forth by policy.
- The Grievance Coordinator reported the top areas of complaints to be regarding mail screening, property, and transfers. It took an average of 2.94 days to answer informal complaints and 3.69 days to answer inmate grievances.
- The Transitional Programming Unit (TPU) was toured and appeared clean on both sides, or "pods", of the unit.

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- WCI offers two vocational programs; horticulture and electronics.
- WCI education department offers Pre-GED, GED, ABLE, Literacy, Special Education, High School Options, career technical education/career enhancement program, advanced job training, and apprenticeship programs.