



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF INDIAN RIVER JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Facility Overview

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility (IRJCF) houses youth between the ages of 12-20. The facility is situated on 40 acres in Massillon, Ohio. On the day of inspection, September 14, 2021, the facility housed 142 youth and employed 142 staff. There were 14 staff vacancies (9.9%).

Highlighted Facts

- IRJCF is managed by Superintendent Jim Darnell.
- In attendance at the inspection were CIIC staff.
- The facility scored 99 percent compliance for ACA mandatory standards, 100 percent compliance for ACA non-mandatory standards, and 68% compliance for Ohio Standards on its most recent Internal Management Audit.

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- All dayrooms/common areas were rated as “good” based on the cleanliness of the floors and their overall appearance. The dorm conditions were also rated as “good” with no issues identified. Shower conditions were rated as “good.”
- All of the drinking fountains, phones, and fans were functioning. Cleaning materials were appropriately secured. All fire extinguishers in each unit were functional and were up to date with inspections.
- Offenders identified assaults, gambling, and extortion, as the most common gang activities. The top substances reported as available were tobacco, marijuana, and prescription pills.

Fair Treatment

- Of the ten grievance responses reviewed, all were responded to by the Grievance Coordinator and were within the timeline set forth by policy. All responses were professional and investigations were conducted in an appropriate manner.
- The Grievance Coordinator position was vacant at the time of inspection, and had been for 1.5 years, but was reported to be in the process of being filled.
- After the occurrence of an act of violence, youth may be placed in their assigned cell, into a cool-down cell, or, for serious offenses, into a seclusion cell. Youth are kept in these rooms for typically less than an hour as a method of diffusing situations.

Health and Wellbeing

- IRJCF medical facilities appeared clean and well maintained. Facilities were small, but appropriate for the small population housed at the facility.
- DYS combines mental health and addiction/substance abuse services into behavioral health. At IRJCF, facilities consist of staff offices. Group programs meet in the day-room or common areas of the housing units, or in classrooms.
- The meal served to CIIC staff was acceptable based on overall taste, appearance, and preparation.

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- Indian River offers youth the ability to visit family either remotely or in-person during the evenings.
- Indian River’s main library appeared clean with a sufficient supply of diverse material. Staff relayed that the local public library comes weekly to allow for a larger material selection. No computers were present as youth have access to personal laptops.
- Indian River offers three vocational programs: horticulture, auto tech, and carpentry. All areas were clean, orderly, and conducive to learning.