



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF CIRCLEVILLE JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

JANUARY 18, 2021

Facility Overview

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) is a close security facility housing general population male youth between the ages of 12-21. As of November 30 2021, the facility housed 130 youth and employed 273 total staff, of which 133 were youth specialists. There were 34 total vacancies (20.4%) including 26 youth specialist vacancies (16.4%).

Highlighted Facts

- CJCF is managed by Superintendent Rebecca Casto.
- In attendance at the inspection were CIIC staff.
- A significant number of categories were rated as In Need of Improvement or went down in rating scale due to inactivity.

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- Youth on Youth Fights increased by 12.5% during the reviewed time period (2019-2021).
- Interviewed youth specialists indicated that the inability to use less-than-lethal force (O/C spray) put the youth and the youth specialist in unnecessary danger during incidents.
- Youth on Staff assaults increased 71.4% during the reviewed time period (2019-2021). 72 assaults occurred in 2021.
- Youth Specialists were inconsistent in documenting security rounds in the requisite 30 minute staggered intervals.

Health and Wellbeing

- Behavioral health services had multiple vacancies and high programming waitlists.
- Both gymnasiums were reported to be closed due to COVID-19 though the arcade remained open for use. With outdoor recreation closed for the winter youth were limited on recreation opportunities.
- The medical department was fully-staffed, with no vacancies. Youth responses regarding quality of care were very positive.

Fair Treatment

- Reviewed grievance responses provided explanations of investigations and professionally addressed the complaints. A high number of responses were untimely in 2021.
- Seclusion/Separation for acts of violence has increased in usage during the reviewed time period (2019-2021).

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- Reentry programs and educational classes were not in operation and youth were observed idle or playing video games throughout the inspection.
- The library has been closed to the youth since the start of COVID-19 restrictions in 2020.
- Visitation had not re-opened since originally being closed in 2020, decreasing family connections. Youth also reported higher rates of issues with mail, phones, and visitation.

Fiscal Accountability

- CJCF did not complete the required annual sustainability audit until prompted by CIIC's request. Staff were unaware of this policy requirement.
- Interviewed staff rated their own safety as "low." The staff survey reflected concerns of the workplace environment.



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RATINGS SUMMARY

	2019	2021
SAFETY & SECURITY	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE
Violence Outcome Measures	Acceptable	In Need of Improvement
Use of Force	Acceptable	Acceptable
Control of Illegal Substances	Not Rated*	Good
Youth Perception of Safety	Good	Good
Unit Security Management	Acceptable	In Need of Improvement
Institutional Security Management	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Acceptable	Acceptable
HEALTH & WELLBEING	GOOD	GOOD
Unit Conditions	Exceptional	Exceptional
Medical Services	Good	Good
Behavior Health Services	Good	Good
Food Services	Exceptional	Good
Recreation	Good	In Need of Improvement
FAIR TREATMENT	GOOD	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT
Staff/Youth Interactions	Good	Good
Youth Grievance Procedure	Good	Acceptable
Youth Discipline	Good	Good
Seclusion	Good	Not Rated*
REHABILITATION & REENTRY	GOOD	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT
Reentry Planning and Programming	Good	In Need of improvement
Access to Purposeful Activities	Good	Not Rated*
Family Engagement & Community Connections	Not Rated*	In Need of Improvement
Academic Programming	Good	In Need of Improvement
Library Services	Good	In Need of improvement
Vocational & Work Skill Development	Not Rated*	Acceptable
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE
Fiscal Wellness	Good	Acceptable
Environmental Sustainability	Good	Acceptable
Staff Management	Good	In Need of improvement

Methodology

Ratings are a four-point scale based on the balance of the indicator ratings for that area. A rating of “Exceptional” for an indicator means that there is no room for improvement and, generally, that the facility performs above other prisons. A rating of “Good” means that the prison more than meets the standard, but is not significantly better than other prisons or there is still room for improvement. A rating of “Acceptable” means that the prison just meets the standard or meets the standard with minor exceptions. A rating of “In Need of Improvement” means that the prison does not meet standards, is significantly different from other prisons in a negative manner, or that CIIC staff had serious concerns.

*Rated areas have been revised since the prior inspection report.