



# CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

*A Joint Committee of the 134<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly*

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## SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF LORAIN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

OCTOBER 19, 2021

### Facility Overview

Lorain Correctional Institution (LorCI) has recently transitioned to a specialty mission as the Post-Release Control (PRC) Return Center. Male offenders that violate terms of their PRC are returned to prison to serve the remaining 90-270 days of their control time. The institution houses all security levels. As of October 6, 2021, the institution housed 1,004 offenders and employed 400 total staff, of which 245 were officers. There were 34 total vacancies (7.8%), including 15 officer vacancies (5.8%).

### Highlighted Facts

- LorCI is managed by Warden Jennifer Gillece Black.
- In attendance at the inspection were Hailey Holbrook, LSC Fellow in the office of Representative Gayle Manning, and CIIC staff.
- In addition to operating as a parole violator center, LorCI also processes reception offenders for Cuyahoga County only.
- At the time of inspection an entire wing of the segregation unit was filled with security level E parole violators.

### Key Inspection Findings

#### Safety and Security

- Violent incidents decreased in 2018 and increased significantly in 2020. However, violent incidents are relatively low when compared to similar institutions.
- Use of force incidents have increased slightly during the reviewed period.
- Officers were inconsistent in the documentation of shakedowns. Rounds were consistent in the required thirty minute staggered intervals.

#### Health and Wellbeing

- The unique mission of LorCI requires service areas to meet the needs of offenders at intake, throughout incarceration, and until release.
- Lorain is the first and only institution to offer the Brief Intervention Program in partnership with mental health, to serve those with dual-diagnoses as "substance-abusing mentally-ill" (SAMI).
- Pest issues were observed in the food services area during inspection with the sighting of fruit flies near bananas and a live mouse in a dry storage area.

#### Fair Treatment

- In 2020 the Institutional Inspector achieved 100% timeliness when responding to grievances.
- There were 7,813 conduct reports submitted in 2020, which was a 193.6% increase from 2019, which had 2,661.

#### Rehabilitation and Reentry

- FY 2021 reports reflect only one student was enrolled in a course and no GED's were attempted. Academic and vocational programming requirements require adaptation for the short-term offenders that LorCI receives.
- The library schedule did not reflect any evening hours, and no library advisory committee meetings have occurred in the last six months, both of which are outside of policy.
- Since the previous inspection, Lorain has began offering Advanced Job Training courses.

#### Fiscal Accountability

- Overtime costs have steadily increased since the last inspection though decreased in fiscal year 2021.
- Vacancy rates were low compared to other institutions, currently, and turnover appears lower than departmental averages.



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## RATINGS SUMMARY

### 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.

A full inspection was completed during the 2019-2020 biennium, though no report nor ratings were issued due to low CIIC staffing levels. For comparative purposes, 2017 ratings are presented.

	2017	2021
<b>SAFETY &amp; SECURITY</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
Violence Outcome Measures	Good	Good
Use of Force	Acceptable	Acceptable
Control of Illegal Substances	In Need of Improvement	Deferred
Offender Perception of Safety	Exceptional	Exceptional
Unit Security Management	Acceptable	Acceptable
Institutional Security Management	Good	Good
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Good	Good
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>
Unit Conditions	Good	Good
Medical Services	Acceptable	Good
Mental Health Services	Acceptable	Acceptable
Recovery Services	Good	Exceptional
Food Services	Good	In Need of Improvement
Recreation	Good	Acceptable
<b>FAIR TREATMENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
Staff/Offender Interactions	Good	Good
Inmate Grievance Procedure	Good	Exceptional
Offender Discipline	N/A*	Good
Transitional Program/Limited Privilege Housing	Good	N/A*
<b>REHABILITATION &amp; REENTRY</b>	<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
Reentry Planning and Programming	Good	Acceptable
Rehabilitative Programming	Acceptable	N/A*
Family Engagement & Community Connections	Good	Good
Academic Programming	Good	In Need of Improvement
Library Services	Acceptable	Acceptable
Vocational & Work Skill Development	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
<b>FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
Fiscal Wellness	Good	Good
Environmental Sustainability	Acceptable	Acceptable
Staff Management	Good	Good

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