



CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION INSPECTION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee of the 134th Ohio General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF NORTHEAST REINTEGRATION CENTER

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Facility Overview

Northeast Reintegration Center (NERC) is a minimum security female prison, housing Level 1 (minimum) security offenders. The facility opened in 1988 and is located on 14 acres in Cleveland, Ohio. The initial design capacity for NERC was 350 offenders. As of January 5, 2022, the institution housed 387 offenders. The youngest offender was listed as 21 years of age and the oldest was listed as 71 years of age. As of January 5, 2022, the institution employed 163 total staff, of which 79 were officers. There were 10 vacancies (6.1%), including 6 officer vacancies (7.6%).

NERC is managed by Warden LaShann Eppinger. In attendance at the inspection were CIIC staff.

Key Inspection Findings

Safety and Security

- CY 2021 resulted in a decreased number of use of force incidents (117).
- NERC rate of uses of force per 1,000 offenders is significantly low compared to other similar facilities.
- 23.8% of the offender survey respondents indicated that drugs were not available at the institution.
- Officers were mostly consistent in documenting security rounds in the requisite 30 minute staggered intervals.
- The rule 17 convictions were 9 in 2018, 23 in 2019, 5 in 2020, and 7 in 2021.

Health and Wellbeing

- Medical facilities were observed to be in good condition and clean.
- Medical and recovery service staffing levels were low, and impact the services available to offenders.
- NERC does not have a fully-operational infirmary. Offenders requiring significant care are transported to an area hospital or Franklin Medical Center.
- Food service facilities appeared orderly and clean, though there were concerns with a pest presence one week prior to the inspection.

Fair Treatment

- Time extensions occurred on half of the reviewed grievance responses, with the average of all ten responses taking 15.1 days. No responses were untimely in 2021, according to DRC records.
- Due to the low security level of NERC offenders, there is no Transitional Program Unit for disciplinary housing.

Rehabilitation and Reentry

- The Unit Management Chief highlighted in her interview the unique program Chopping for a Change.
- Case managers expressed frustration with the social distancing required due to the COVID-19 pandemic and limited programing space.
- NERC offered two vocational programs and college courses through Ashland University.

Fiscal Accountability

- Overtime costs have decreased over the evaluated time period.
- Staff separation rates have increased 2.9% from 2017-2020.



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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.

	2020	2022
SAFETY & SECURITY	EXCEPTIONAL	EXCEPTIONAL
Violence Outcome Measures	Exceptional	Exceptional
Use of Force	Exceptional	Exceptional
Control of Illegal Substances	Exceptional	Exceptional
Offender Perception of Safety	Exceptional	Exceptional
Unit Security Management	Good	Good
Institutional Security Management	Exceptional	Exceptional
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Good	Exceptional
HEALTH & WELLBEING	GOOD	GOOD
Unit Conditions	Good	Exceptional
Medical Services	Good	Good
Mental Health Services	Good	Good
Recovery Services	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
Food Services	Good	Good
Recreation	Good	Good
FAIR TREATMENT	GOOD	EXCEPTIONAL
Staff/Offender Interactions	Exceptional	Exceptional
Inmate Grievance Procedure	Good	Good
Offender Discipline	Good	Exceptional
REHABILITATION & REENTRY	EXCEPTIONAL	GOOD
Reentry Planning and Programming	Good	Acceptable
Rehabilitative Programming	Exceptional	N/A*
Family & Community Connections	Exceptional	Exceptional
Academic Programming	Good	Good
Library Services	Exceptional	Good
Vocational & Work Skill Development	Good	Good
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	GOOD	GOOD
Fiscal Wellness	Good	Exceptional
Environmental Sustainability	Exceptional	In Need of Improvement
Staff Management	Good	Good

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