



A Joint Committee of the Ohio General Assembly

REPORT ON THE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF CIRCLEVILLE JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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JANUARY 16, 2025



REPORT ON THE
UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF

CIRCLEVILLE JUVENILE
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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OVERVIEW



Facility Overview

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) houses youth between the ages of 14-20. It is one of the higher-security youth facilities in the state, as youth are housed in an individual-cell environment. The facility is situated on 42 acres in Circleville, Ohio.

The facility's rated capacity is 144 youth. As of January 30, 2025, the facility housed 142 youth. As of February 4, 2025, CJCF employed 244 total staff, of which 123 were Youth Specialists. There were 26 total vacancies (9.6%), of which 11 were Youth Specialists (4.1%).

In its March 14-16, 2024, American Correctional Association (ACA) Reaccreditation audit, the facility scored 100% compliance for 35 applicable, mandatory standards, and 99.7% on the 318 applicable, non-mandatory standards. The standard in noncompliance was regarding staffing levels.

In its April 2-4, 2024, Internal Management Audit (IMA), the facility scored 100% compliance for the applicable, ACA mandatory standards, 98% on the applicable, ACA non-mandatory standards and 56% for applicable Ohio standards. The standards found in noncompliance were regarding active aggressor training compliance, youth dress code and movement, outcount slips, administrative rounds, DYS 2455 and 2443's, youth property records, transfer records, intake records, house meetings, programming accessibility for hearing impaired youth, goal and behaviors per IDT's, program participation, quarterly health authority meeting, substance use intervention, confirmatory testing, drug testing prior to release, monitoring logs, audit team paperwork, incomplete incident reports, OnBase documentation, OYAS assessments, educational program flexibility, Specially Designated Instruction, intervention plans for truancy, librarian staffing, delayed grievance responses, quarterly reports, measurable goals, advisory board, probationary employees, facility vacancy rate, training advisory committee, training plan, release documentation.

Inspection Overview

Preparation for the inspection of Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility took place in the month prior to site visitation. The most recent inspection of the facility, completed in 2024, was reviewed to identify areas of previous concern or praise. The CIIC database of concerns received from youth, constituents, and staff was analyzed for topics of frequent concern. Facility staff were not notified of the inspection until an hour prior to arrival.

The day of inspection, Thursday, January 16, 2025, consisted of an interview with the Superintendent, review of safety and security, a full facility tour, review of health and wellbeing, review of fair treatment, review of rehabilitation and reentry, and review of fiscal accountability. A teleconference was held between CIIC staff, DYS executive staff, and CJCF executive staff on April 21, 2025, to review any discrepancies.

Date of Inspection: January 16, 2025

Type of Inspection: Unannounced

CIIC Staff Present:

Chris Albanese, Executive Director

Jeff Noble, Chief Inspector

Matt Eiting, Communications and Policy Coordinator

Hannah Kramer, Project Manager

Superintendent:

Andrea Jones

Youth Surveys:

Youth survey results are displayed throughout the report compared to the results of previous surveys. The response rate resulted in a margin of error of approximately +/- 9% at a 95% confidence level. Each result can be stated that, "we are 95% confident that the true response is within 9% of the reported response." 66 youth participated in the 2025 survey.

The 2024 inspection survey had a +/-7% margin of error with 79 youth participants.

RATINGS SUMMARY

Methodology

Ratings are derived from 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 juvenile correctional facilities. A rating of “Good” means that the juvenile correctional facility more than meets the standard, but is not significantly better than other juvenile correctional facilities or there is still room for improvement. A rating of “Acceptable” means that the juvenile correctional facility just meets the standard or meets the standard with minor exceptions. A rating of “In Need of Improvement” means that the juvenile correctional facility does not meet standards, is significantly different from other juvenile correctional facilities in a negative manner, or that CIIC staff had serious concerns.

		2024	2025
	SAFETY & SECURITY	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT
	Violence Outcome Measures	In Need of Improvement	In Need of Improvement
	Use of Force	Acceptable	Acceptable
	Control of Illegal Substances	Acceptable	Acceptable
	Youth Perception of Safety	Good	Good
	Unit Security Management	In Need of Improvement	In Need of Improvement
	Institutional Security Management	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
	Prison Rape Elimination Act	Deferred	Acceptable
	HEALTH & WELLBEING	GOOD	GOOD
	Unit Conditions	Good	In Need of Improvement
	Medical Services	Exceptional	Exceptional
	Behavioral Health Services	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
	Food Services	Exceptional	Exceptional
	Recreation	Good	Good
	FAIR TREATMENT	ACCEPTABLE	ACCEPTABLE
	Staff/Youth Interactions	Acceptable	Acceptable
	Youth Grievance Procedure	Deferred	In Need of Improvement
	Youth Discipline	In Need of Improvement	In Need of Improvement
	Library and Legal Services	Acceptable	Good
	WORKFORCE READINESS	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT	ACCEPTABLE
	Reentry Planning and Programming	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
	Family & Community Connections	Deferred	Good
	Academic Programming	Deferred	Acceptable
	Vocational & Work Skill Development	Deferred	Good
	FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	DEFERRED	GOOD
	Fiscal Wellness	Deferred	In Need of Improvement
	Energy & Waste Management	Deferred	Deferred
	Staff Management	Deferred	In Need of Improvement

Safety and Security

Key Findings

In 2024, acts of violence have decreased (229). In 2024, there were 4.8 acts of violence per week. There was a 10.1% increase in population in the same timeframe.

In 2024, Transitional Separation hours continued to climb, reaching 103,636.39 total hours. In 2024, there were 2,159.1 hours of Transitional Separation per week.

From 2022 to 2024, the rate of Rule 1-5 (Physical Harm) violations continued to decrease. At the same time, assaults and fights increased.

As of January 30, 2025, there were 10 active and 65 passive STG members.

In 2024, there were 8 alleged PREA incidents, of which one was substantiated.

In 2024, there were 8 alleged PREA incidents, of which one was substantiated.

Transitional Separation again increased. Transitional Separation is separation/solitary confinement due to a lack of staff. The beginning of Transitional Separation use was after Central Office stopped the use of cohorting youth into small groups and began intermixing large groups of youth. In 2023, there were 56,299 hours of Transitional Separation. In 2024, Transitional Separation hours continued to climb, reaching 103,636 total hours. In 2023, there were 1,082.7 hours of Transitional Separation per week. In 2024, there were 1,993 hours of Transitional Separation per week.

From 2023 to 2024, the average monthly population increased 10.1%. In 2023, there were an average of 129 youth per month at CJCF. In 2024, there were an average of 142 youth per month.

In 2024, there were more youth, youth spent more time in their cells/rooms, and there were less acts of violence.

SAFETY & SECURITY	2024	2025
	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT
Violence Outcome Measures	In Need of Improvement	In Need of Improvement
Use of Force	Acceptable	Acceptable
Control of Illegal Substances	Acceptable	Acceptable
Youth Perception of Safety	Good	Good
Unit Security Management	In Need of Improvement	In Need of Improvement
Institutional Security Management	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
Prison Rape Elimination Act	Deferred	Acceptable

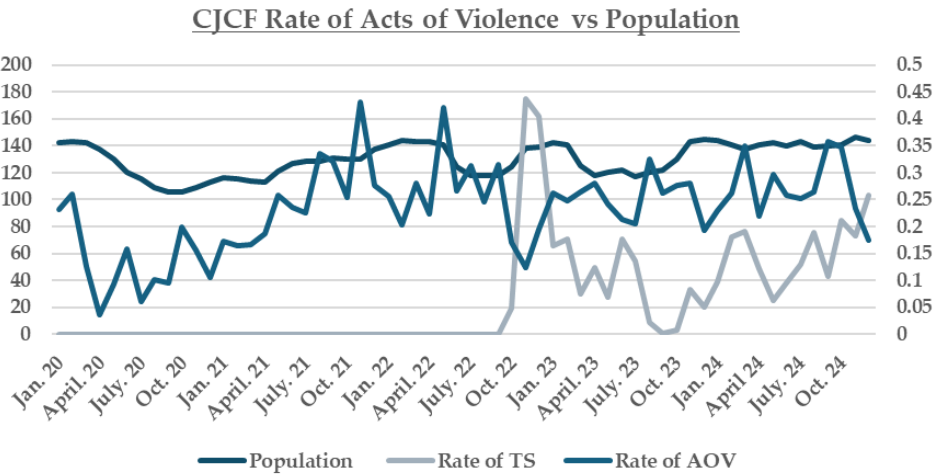
Violence Outcome Measures: In Need of Improvement

Evaluation of violence focuses on the number and rate of acts of violence, disciplinary findings for physical harm, fights and assaults, the number of homicides, and disturbances at the institution during a year, in comparison to the previous years.

At the time of inspection CJCF was at critical staffing levels. Due to the short staffing the rate of Transitional Separation increased exponentially.

Acts of Violence

In 2022, there were 397 acts of violence. In 2023, there were 392 acts of violence. 2024 saw a 42% decrease from 2023 with 229. In 2023 there were 7.5 acts of violence per week and in 2024 there were 4.8.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

Violence Outcome Measures: In Need of Improvement, Continued

Physical Harm

Policy (156-DSC-01) defines the Youth Rules of Conduct. Rules 1-5 are categorized as Physical Harm Violations. From 2022 to 2024, the rate of Rule 1-5 (Physical Harm) violations continued to decrease. In 2023, there were 1,231 Physical Harm violations and in 2024, there were 1,226.

Homicides and Disturbances

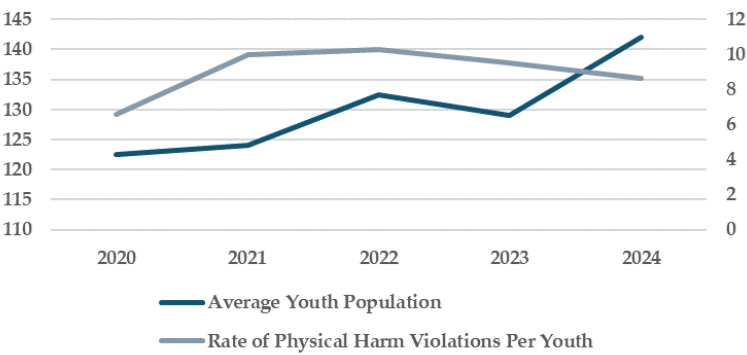
There were no homicides at CJCF from 2020-2024, or to-date in 2025.

There were no disturbances from 2020-2021 and from 2023-2024. There was one disturbance in 2022.

Fights and Assaults

From 2023 to 2024, the total number of youth-on-youth fights and assaults continued to increase. The total number of youth-on-staff assaults increased from 2023 to 2024.

CJCF Rate of Physical Harm Violations vs Population



CJCF Fights and Assaults

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Youth on Youth Fight	48	99	106	107	117
Youth on Youth Assault	104	197	173	185	205
Youth on Staff Assault	48	72	91	81	89
Total	200	368	370	373	411

Use of Force: Acceptable

Evaluation of use of force focuses on the number of uses of force at the institution as well as an evaluation of a random sample of completed use of force reports.

Number and Rate of Uses of Force

In 2024, the rate of use of physical restraint on youth continued to increase. Additionally, the rate of unique youth involved in a physical restraint increased in the same timeframe. In 2023, there were 843 uses of physical restraint, which was 16.2 per week. In 2024, there were 1,144 uses of physical restraint, which was 22 per week.

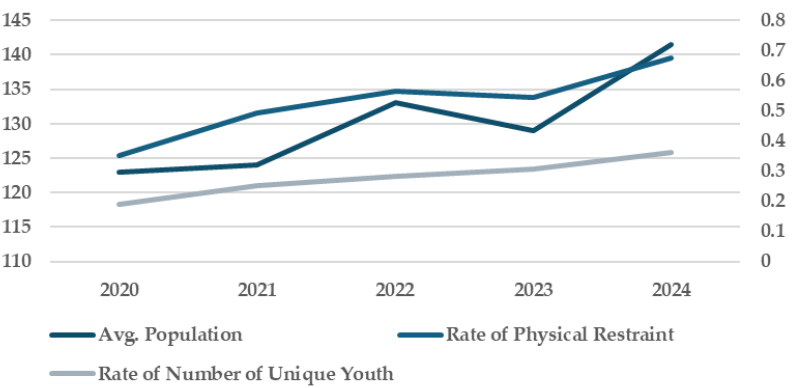
Use of Force Review

Ten previous use of force incidents were reviewed (163-UOF-04). All ten incidents followed standard protocols.

Video documentation was watched for all incidents. Youth

Specialist use of force applications were appropriate according to policy. No injuries were noted to staff or youth. In two instances, oleoresin capsicum, “pepper” spray, (OC) was deployed. Only Unit Managers and Operations Managers carry OC, and the delay in their response to the incident allowed youth to continue struggling with Youth Specialists well after force was initiated. If decontamination was required, after the deployment of OC (pepper) spray, youth were immediately decontaminated (168-MED-33).

CJCF Rate of Physical Restraint vs Population



SAFETY AND SECURITY

Control of Illegal Substances: Acceptable

Evaluation of control of illegal substances focuses on the percentage of youth who tested positive for an illegal substance at the institution during a year in comparison to previous years, a review of the facility Monthly Drug Testing Reports, and types of substances available.

Drug Testing Results

The percentage of Total positive drug tests decreased from 2023 to 2024. In 2024, the number of For Cause drug testing and percentage of positive decreased.

	2022		2023		2024	
	# Tested	% Positive	# Tested	% Positive	# Tested	% Positive
Facility Transfer Drug Testing	124	0%	111	6.3%	100	5.0%
For Cause Drug Testing	1,043	1.3%	225	1.3%	40	27.5%
Total Testing Average	1,690	1.5%	897	3.5%	725	5.7%

Monthly Drug Testing Reports

ODYS requires each facility to administer monthly drug tests to 10% of their population within five business days of the population being identified (182-SAS-02). Most monthly drug tests were administered as required by policy. The remaining either failed to test all youth identified or tested outside of the assigned window of five business days.

In its April 2-4, 2024, Internal Management Audit (IMA) several drug-related standards were found to be out of compliance. Standards were regarding drug intervention following a positive drug test, specimen testing from a third-party in which not all positive specimens were delivered to LabCorp for confirmatory testing, and drug testing prior to release in which five youth were not tested prior to being released to parole.

Youth Survey Question(s)	2023	2024	2025
What illegal substances are available at your facility?	None 81.8%	None 87.1%	None 70.0%
	Prescription Pills 14.5%	Tobacco 11.4%	Marijuana 83.3%
	Tobacco 12.7%	Marijuana 10.0%	Prescription Pills 72.2%
	Marijuana 10.9%	Prescription Pills 10.0%	Tobacco 66.7%
	Alcohol/Hooch 9.1%	Alcohol/Hooch 10.0%	Alcohol/Hooch 61.1%
	Suboxone 9.1%	Cocaine 7.1%	Cocaine 44.4%
	Heroin 7.3%	Heroine 7.1%	Heroin 38.9%
	Cocaine 7.3%	Suboxone 5.7%	Suboxone 38.9%

Safety and Security

Youth Perception of Safety: Good

Evaluation of youth perception of safety includes youth interviews and anonymous youth survey results.

Youth Interviews

The CIIC interviewed eight youth. Most interviewed youth indicated their safety is most at risk when units mix and gang populations can easily communicate. Most youth indicated violence tends to occur because of Transitional Separation and the frustration youth feel locked in their room/cell with nothing to do.

Youth Survey Question(s)	"Safe or Neutral"		
	2023	2024	2025
Do you feel safe from other youth here?	85.5%	80.6%	74.2%

Unit Security Management: In Need of Improvement

Evaluation of Unit Security Management includes a review of Youth Specialist Security rounds, a review of executive rounds, a review of room/cell searches, and a visual observation of room/cell visibility and property control.

Youth Specialist Security Rounds

Youth Specialists were inconsistent in documenting security rounds in the requisite 30-minute, staggered intervals (174-UMA-01). This has been a reoccurring problem for CJCF. Youth Specialists stated that during certain periods where rounds were not conducted the Youth Specialist was escorting youth to other parts of the facility. DYS policy has no exemptions for these time periods.

Executive Rounds

Executive rounds were reviewed and appeared inconsistent with policy (150-FAM-01). This may be due to the use of executive staff as a second youth specialist in the unit so youth can exit transitional separation, or solitary confinement for the purposes of unsafe staffing levels. Often when executive staff arrive, between 9:00am and 11:00am, they are sent to units where youth are released from transitional separation. DYS disputed this, however refused to send proof or documentation.

Room/Cell Searches

Youth Specialists are required to search youth rooms/cells for contraband, including drugs and weapons, each shift. Staff were inconsistent in the documentation of room searches (174-UMA-01).

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Institutional Security Management: Acceptable

Evaluation of security management focuses on escapes, disruptive behaviors, and STG (gang) management.

Escapes

There were no escapes from 2021 to 2024, and to-date in 2025.

Disruptive Behavior

Disruptive Behaviors are defined in DYS policy (156-DSC-01) as a violation of Rules 10—20 of the Rules of Youth Conduct. CJCF saw an increase in the number of Disruptive Behaviors in 2024, compared to 2023 and 2022. From 2023 to 2024, there was a 10.1% increase in youth committed to CJCF. At the same time, there was a 19.3% increase in Disruptive Behaviors. In 2024, there were 2,066 proven violations of Disruptive Behavior Rules.

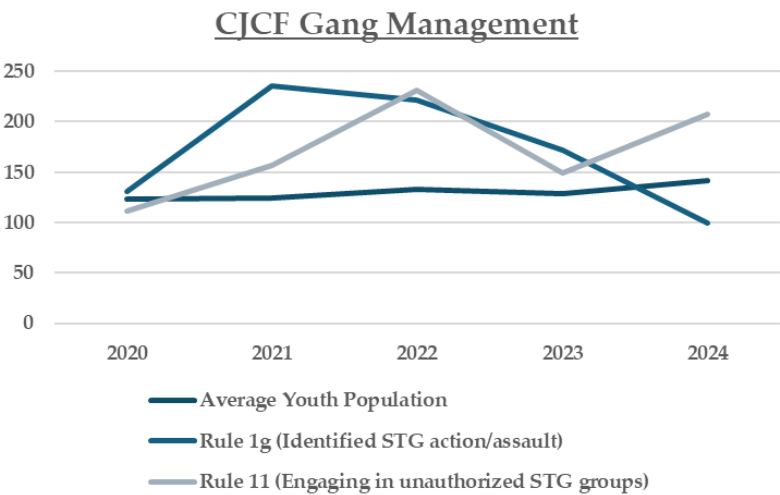
Security Threat Group Management (Gangs)

As of January 30, 2025, there were 10 active and 65 passive STG members. Overall in 2024, there was an average of 28 active and 57 passive STG members.

Upon receipt of facility STG meeting minutes, CJCF was conducting STG meetings as required by policy (173-PRG-01).

Gang Intervention Specialist Interview

The Gang Intervention Specialist was interviewed during inspection. The Gang Intervention Specialist indicated that they review all security threat group (gang) related YBIR's. The investigation process and methods used to investigate criminal incidents at the facility were explained. It was indicated that they go to each unit weekly in attempts to be proactive and more knowledgeable about the occurrences in the facility. It was indicated they participate in the Placement Committee if a youth is being reviewed to move to another facility for STG or violent related matters. They indicated they had eight active STG members at the facility. CJCF recently began reviewing youths STG every 30 days to modify interventions if necessary. Youth are eligible for their STG status to change every 90 days. Cellphones, vape pens, and marijuana are the main facility conveyance concerns.



Safety and Security

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and Sexual Violence: Acceptable

Evaluation of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and sexual violence includes a review of the most recent PREA audit report, and interview with the PREA Coordinator, the number of reported incidents, and anonymous youth survey responses.

PREA Audit Report

The facility met all 43 and exceeded 0 standards on its August 18, 2023, PREA audit report. No corrective action was required as all standards were met.

PREA Allegations and Investigations

In 2024, there were a total of eight alleged PREA allegations, of which, one was substantiated and was due to youth-on-youth sexual imposition.

PREA Coordinator Interview

An interview with the facility’s PREA Coordinator explained the process that the facility uses to monitor youth identified as victims or potential victims and abusers. Also explained was the process to track and separate LGBTQIA+ youth from potential abusers. The Stark County Rape Crisis Center was relayed to partner with IRJCF for PREA related issues post release.

PREA Requirements

Required entry notification for different-gendered staff were tested and functioned according to policy. PREA required curtains were in every shower. All units had PREA notification posters except one. One unit had trash bags covering the shower windows, and another unit had soap covering the shower windows. This has been a reoccurring challenge for CJCF.

Investigations/ Allegations	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Alleged Incidents	9	6	4	8
Outcomes	5 Substantiated	5 Substantiated	1 Substantiated	1 Substantiated
	4 Unsubstantiated	1 Unsubstantiated	0 Unsubstantiated	7 Unsubstantiated
	0 Unfounded	0 Unfounded	3 Unfounded	0 Unfounded

CJCF Sexual Acts of Violence						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Youth on Youth Rape	0	0	0	0	0	From 2023 to 2024, there was a 104% increase in total Sexual Acts of Violence. The majority of reported Sexual Acts of Violence were reported to be youth sexual misconduct.
Youth Sexual Misconduct	2	12	23	19	43	
Youth on Staff Sexual Imposition	0	0	4	0	4	Staff at the institution expressed concerns regarding the throwing of bodily fluids such as mixtures of urine, feces, and semen, and the lack of accountability required of youth. Such occurrences have been a continued concern as expressed by staff at all levels.
Youth on Staff Sexual Harassment	3	1	1	4	N/A	
Total	5	13	28	23	47	

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and Sexual Violence: Acceptable, Continued

Youth Survey Question(s)	"Yes"		
	2023	2024	2025
<i>Have you been harassed or threatened by other youth here?</i>	45.5%	47.2%	40.1%
<i>Have you ever been abused by youth here?</i>	20%	29.2%	19.3%
<i>Have you been harassed or threatened by staff here?</i>	29.1%	29.2%	27.1%
<i>Have you ever been abused by staff here?</i>	14.5%	6.9%	7.9%
<i>Do you know how to report sexual harassment or abuse?</i>	87.3%	92.8%	71.1%

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Key Findings

Units were noticeably deteriorating. It was indicated that due to critically low security staffing, maintenance staff have been utilized to monitor the vehicle sallyport, a position traditionally taken by security.

In a Nurse focus group conducted at the time of inspection, nursing staff reported high job satisfaction and support from supervisory staff.

As of February 4, 2025, Behavioral Health had a 33.3% vacancy rate.

Ten Red Folders were reviewed during inspection, and it was found that all contained required documents. Most Red Folders contained all required critical information.

The meal sampled by CIIC at the time of inspection was rated as "exceptional."

Several recreational programming opportunities are provided to youth. Such programming included soccer, softball, basketball, flag football, chess, mentoring, and community service.

Required Documentation

All units contained the required house meeting notebook, however the notes did not appear to be filled out by a youth, and no meetings had occurred in 2025. All units contained a unit log book and employee sign-in sheets (174-UMA-01).

HEALTH & WELLBEING	2024	2025
	Good	Good
Unit Conditions	Good	In Need of Improvement
Medical Services	Exceptional	Exceptional
Behavioral Health Services	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
Food Services	Exceptional	Exceptional
Recreation	Good	Good
Unit Conditions: In Need of Improvement		
<i>Evaluation of unit conditions includes an observation of cleanliness and order, working order of functional equipment, required informational postings, and a review of required documentation. consists of direct observation of housing areas.</i>		
Unit Facilities		
A tour of all housing units was conducted at the time of inspection.		
Units consisted of a dayroom, one-person rooms/cells with a sink and a toilet, and shared individual showers.		
Cleanliness and Order		
All dayrooms/common areas were "acceptable," based on their general cleanliness, appearance, and order (121-CAM-04). The youth room conditions were also rated as "good," with consistency of mandated room organization across the facility. Bathroom and shower conditions were mostly rated as "in need of improvement."		
Functional Equipment		
All the TV's, computers, video game consoles, microwaves, and fans were operational. In one unit the sink wasn't functioning, two units had no paper towels or soap, two units had one broken phone each, and one unit had broken cabinets.		
Required Informational Postings		
Almost all CIIC memos, PREA notification posters (179-YSA-01), grievance procedure (159-YRI-07), program lists (102-REN-03), youth rules of conduct (156-DSC-01), structured facility schedules (150-UMA-04), and fire evacuation maps (110-SAF-05) were appropriately posted. One unit was missing all required postings.		

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Medical Services: Exceptional

Evaluation of medical services consists of a tour of the medical facilities, staffing, interview with the Health Services Administrator, a nurse focus group, data review of staff and youth injuries, medical separation hours, and anonymous youth survey responses.

Medical Facilities

Medical facilities were observed to include exam rooms, a dental room, a lab room, staff offices, a waiting area, and chart storage area. All areas appeared spacious and orderly at the time of inspection.

Staffing

As of February 4, 2025, staffing consisted of one Nurse Supervisor, one Health Information Technologist, nine Nurses, and one Psych Nurse. Vacancies included one Nurse (7.7% vacancy rate).

Health Services Administrator Interview

An interview with the Health Services Administrator (HSA) was conducted at the time of inspection. The HSA relayed the following: new staff are trained on Departmental policies and procedures at the academy as well as through on-the-job training (168-MED-02); the HSA meets with staff monthly to discuss administrative and clinical topics (168-MED-02); department head meetings are held quarterly (168-MED-02); prior to release, youth are provided a 30-day supply of necessary medication (168-MED-06); all youth meet with medical staff prior to release (168-MED-01); new youth intakes receive a comprehensive medical exam at the time of intake (168-MED-12); doctors are available to respond to youth concerns twice a week though nursing staff is available 24/7 (168-MED-09); medical staff is made aware of youth placed in separation via direct contact by Operations (security), medical staff then meets with youth each shift to ensure their medical needs are taken care of (168-MED-09); medical staff meet with youth following the use of OC (pepper) spray (168-MED-33).

Nurse Focus Group

A focus group of nurses was held on the day of inspection. The following was relayed: medical staff believe they do many things well including the quality of medical care provided, timeliness, communication with fellow medical staff, and creating a comfortable environment for the youth; the biggest obstacles at the time of inspection were staff turnover and providing continuity of care due to staff shortages; interactions between youth and staff were rated as “good;” the relationship between nursing staff and their supervisor was rated as “exceptional;” communication with other departments, specifically Operations, was rated as “in need of improvement;” suggestions to improve their worksite included additional space and staff.

Staff and Youth Injuries

Staff that are injured and require on-site first aid or an ambulance trip are not tracked by DYS. The CIIC requested information regarding staff injuries and staff injuries requiring outside medical attention in 2024, DYS responded they do not track those statistics. Previously this request was provided.

Youth injuries can occur as part of a recreation activity, from a fight or assault, or from any other accident around facility living.

	Incidents of Staff Injury				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Staff Injuries	87	81	40	N/A	
Staff Injuries Requiring Outside Medical Attention	33	67	36	N/A	
	Incidents of Youth Injury				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Incidents Requiring Emergency Room Trips	15	27	13	16	13
Incidents Where Emergency Squad Was Called	6	3	0	2	9
Incidents Requiring First Aid and Physician Referral	33	56	45	58	33
Incidents Requiring First Aide	243	254	184	174	121
Incidents Where No Treatment Was Necessary	489	785	1,048	1,074	1,495
Total	786	1,125	1,290	1,324	1,671

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Medical Services: Exceptional, Continued

Medical Separation Hours						Youth may be placed in separation for medical necessity. In 2024, there were no recorded separations under “Quarantine (COVID-19)” and 601 recorded hours of separation under “Medical Isolation (COVID-19).” During inspection one unit was under COVID-19 quarantine after two staff and two youth contracted the disease. Youth complained there was nothing to do for the 14 day quarantine.
Medical Separation	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Medical Isolation (COVID-19)	536	12,451	16,498	7,831	601	
Medical Level Four (Medical Isolation/Non-COVID)	56	37	381	288	206	
Quarantine (COVID-19)	17,547	18,717	9,433	5,828	0	
Total Separation	49,430	67,247	92,884	83,833	118,644	
						“Satisfied or Neutral”
Youth Survey Question(s)				2023	2024	2025
How satisfied are you with the quality of care you get from nurses?				78.2%	90.1%	88.5%
How satisfied are you with the quality of care you get from doctors?				76.8%	88.6%	87.5%
						“Within 2 days”
On average, how long does it take to see the nurse when you are sick?				87.5%	83.4%	80.3%
						“Yes”
If you are on the chronic care caseload, do you see medical regularly?				21.4%	50.0%	45.0%

Behavioral Health Services: Acceptable

Evaluation of behavioral health services consists on a tour of behavioral health facilities, staffing, an interview with the Behavioral Health Services Administrator, a focus group of Social Workers, a review of a random selection of Red Folders, programming, and anonymous youth survey results.

Behavioral Health Facilities

DYS combines mental health and recovery services into behavioral health. At CJCF, programming is done in the units. Overall, the areas appeared to have sufficient space for staff to conduct programming duties, and the areas were noted to be clean and organized.

Behavioral Health Programming

The CIIC requested program enrollment and waitlist data for 2025. The DYS responded they were unable to provide the request. This is a concern as courts and the Release Authority rely on these programs for sentencing and release. This is the third year in a row the DYS has been unable to provide the requested program information. CJCF stated they offer various programming opportunities. Programming included Core A/B, Substance Use Education, and Victim Awareness.

Staffing

As of February 4, 2025, staffing included one Behavioral Healthcare Provider Supervisor 2, two Behavioral Healthcare Provider Supervisor 1’s, four Behavioral Healthcare Provider 1’s, and one Behavioral Healthcare Provider 2. Vacancies included two Behavioral Healthcare Provider 2’s, one Psychologist, and one Psych Assistant (33.3% vacancy rate).

Behavioral Health Programs	Enrollment	Waitlist
Core A	N/A	N/A
Core B/Skillset	N/A	N/A
LNSO (Low Needs Sex Offender)	N/A	N/A
PREP	N/A	N/A
Substance Abuse Education	N/A	N/A
Substance Abuse Phase I	N/A	N/A
Substance Abuse Phase II	N/A	N/A
Standard Needs Sex Offender	N/A	N/A
Victim Awareness	N/A	N/A
Youth Sexual Misconduct	N/A	N/A

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Behavioral Health Services: Acceptable

Behavioral Health Services Administrator Interview

The Behavioral Health Services Administrator was interviewed at the time of inspection. The following was relayed: youth receive a behavioral health screening at the time of intake and if the youth was placed on watch by their previous institution, the screening is completed within one hour of arrival (167-BHS-09); youth receive an initial drug screen at the time of intake (182-SAS-02); youth are assessed for substance use disorder at the facility through the use of a JASAE screening (182-SAS-03); all youth receive substance use education upon their placement in the orientation unit (182-SAS-03); all youth that received mandated programming instructions receive the programming during their time at the facility, if a youth does not receive their mandated programming their parole officer and/or the Release Authority are made aware so the youth can receive it in the community (182-SAS-03); when a youth is preparing for release, they are paired with an occupational therapist to begin applying for jobs, college, trade schools, etc. (102-REN-05); an initial suicide screening is conducted at the time of intake and if the youth arrives on watch status, a more comprehensive screening is conducted (167-BHS-06); Integrated Treatment Plans are created at the time of the behavioral health assessment utilizing a youths Ohio Youth Assessment Scale (OYAS) (167-BHS-03); Integrated Treatment Plans are reviewed monthly (167-BHS-03).

DYS Policy 167-BHS-06 2024

Suicide Watch	129	<i>Social Worker Focus Group</i>
Observation	3	A Social Worker focus group was conducted at the time of inspection. The following was relayed: reoccurring challenges include high caseload numbers, productivity, and lack of staff;
Self-Injurious Behavior	31	communication between behavioral health staff and security was rated as "good;" communication between behavioral health staff and youth was rated as "good;" interviewed Social
Non-Suicidal Self Injury	10	Workers relayed feeling very supported by their supervisor; concerns surrounding group delivery included staffing levels disrupting the running of groups and other activities being
Suicidal Ideation	8	scheduled during group times; the most common tasks requested of Social Workers outside of
Suicide Attempts	0	their scope of practice included supervising youth; a suggestion provided by staff to improve
Suicides	0	their worksite included an improved office set-up and increased staffing.

Red Folders

Red Folders contain all documentation of a youth placed on a behavioral health precautionary status. Ten Red Folders were reviewed during inspection, and found all folders contained the required documents. Most Red Folders contained all required critical information.

Caseload

M1 (Serious Mental Illness)	1
M2 (Moderate Mental Illness)	6
M3 (Mild Mental Illness)	89
Total	96

*Caseload data as of January 30, 2025

"Satisfied or Neutral"

Youth Survey Question(s)	2023	2024	2025
How satisfied are you with the quality of care you get from Mental Health?	74.1%	80.0%	80.4%
"Yes"			
Do you feel you are able to get into Recovery/Addiction Services?	27.3%	82.6%	57.6%

Food Services: Exceptional

Evaluation of food services includes a tour of the food services facilities, staffing, and interview with the Food Services Director, safety and sanitation observation, attending the youth meal, a review of previous audits, and anonymous youth survey results.

Due to short staffing, only dinner was being served in the cafeteria. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks were served in-unit at the time of inspection.

Food Service Facilities

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility had one dining hall which appeared clean and orderly. The dining room floors, tables, and ceilings were clean and free of debris. The serving lines were also clean, orderly, and free of food particles. The food preparation and storage areas were found to be organized and clean at the time of inspection. The freezer and coolers were found to be organized, clean, and maintained proper temperatures.

Staffing

As of February 4, 2025, staffing consisted of one Food Service Manager, one Food Service Supervisor, and twelve Food Service Workers. There were no vacancies at the time of inspection (0% vacancy rate). The facility also employed eight youth workers in Food Services at CJCF.

Safety and Sanitation Observation

Temperatures of the food line were taken and found to be appropriate. The tool cage was inspected and found to be orderly with documentation of tool use up-to-date and secure. Daily sanitation schedules, tool storage, chemical storage, and temperature logs (DYS 2080-DYS 2084) were reviewed on site and appeared accurate according to policy (160-FSM-06).

CIIC found the freezer, coolers and dry storage areas to be clean, organized, and meeting the policy-required temperatures. The dish machine was reaching the necessary temperatures during each cycle. No maintenance issues were reported.

Meal Period Attendance (ORC 5120.1-8-10)

The meal sampled by CIIC included barbecue chicken, collard greens, mashed potatoes and gravy, a roll, butter, a salad, and a container of milk. Vegetarian options were available as substitute meals. Staff also relayed that medical and religious diets were available and are submitted through the Medical Department or the Chaplain. The portion sizes and taste were rated “exceptional.”

Food Service Manager Interview

An interview with the Food Service Manager (FSM) was conducted during the inspection in which the following was relayed: the FSM attends facility department meetings monthly (160-FSM-01); 8 youth work in the kitchen, 2 of them are apprentices; the school handles applications and payment for youth who work in the kitchen; the FSM and supervisors have all completed the ServeSafe certifications (160-FSM-01); all staff have signed a Health Policy Agreement (160-FSM-06); the most common complaints voiced by youth are serving sizes and Muslim youth complaining about pork products; there have been no recent health concerns found to be related to food; retaining staff is not a concern, but attracting applicants can be very difficult; incentive meals offered by the facility are not considered when tracking youth calorie allotment.

Previous Audits

The most recent health inspection report on August 29, 2024, had no critical observations and one non-critical. The following was noted, “Non-food surface of can opener near freezers had debris on it, and needs to be cleaned as soon as is feasible.”

Youth Survey Question(s)	“Satisfied or Neutral”		
	2023	2024	2025
How satisfied are you with the food in the dining hall?	54.6%	66.7%	63.6%

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Recreation: Good

Evaluation of recreation consists of a tour of recreational facilities, staffing, an interview with the Activity Therapist Administrator, programs, and anonymous youth survey results.

Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities consisted of the following: a large indoor gym containing basketball courts, a weight room with multiple machines where youth could be monitored by staff, a large multi-purpose room for various programs, a large outdoor area, a basketball court, mobile bicycles, baseball and soccer fields, and stationary equipment.

Staff use the large indoor program area as a multi-purpose room for various special events such as motivational movie nights, painting, coloring classes through the local church, “Keeping It Real,” and more. The facility recently started offering CrossFit classes twice a week for the youth. The youth have access to free weights in the CrossFit classes, always under adult supervision.

Staffing

As of February 4, 2025, staffing consisted of one Program Administrator, one Activity Therapy Administrator, and five General Activity Therapists. There were no vacancies at the time of inspection (0% vacancy rate).

Activity Therapist Administrator Interview

The Activity Therapist Administrator regularly visits youth in separation/segregation in order to create a fitness plan for them based on their requests (177-REC-01). These plans usually consist of instructional DVD fitness videos and fitness regiments consisting of workouts such as push-ups, sit-ups, or other exercises that can be done in their rooms. The staff shortage at CJCF has affected the recreation department as General Activity Therapists are regularly mandated to perform Youth Specialist duties. The Structured Facility Schedule is posted in the recreation area (150-UMA-04). Physical fitness evaluations are performed twice a year (177-REC-01).

Programs

All youth received at least one hour of recreation time per day with an additional hour available during non-school days. Facilities appeared clean, orderly, and in good condition. Soccer, softball, basketball, and flag football are offered two times per week depending on the weather and time of year. Programs such as chess, mentoring, and community service allow for stationary recreation programming. Programs like “Keepin’ it Real” and movie nights have youth operating in leadership positions by leading questions and ensuring involvement of all youth.

Youth Survey Question(s)	“Satisfied or Neutral”		
	2023	2024	2025
<i>How satisfied are you with recreation?</i>	60%	56.9%	59.1%

Fair Treatment

Key Findings

The CIIC reviewed ten grievances that had been closed since CIIC’s last inspection. All were investigated and responded to within policy requirements (159-YRI-07).

In 2024, there was an average of 663 instances of separation/seclusion per week.

Since the last CIIC inspection, CJCF had hired a new librarian, so the library is now accessible to youth throughout the week.

Most youth indicated staff are professional and follow policy.

FAIR TREATMENT	2024	2025
	ACCEPTABLE	ACCEPTABLE
Staff/Youth Interactions	Acceptable	Acceptable
Youth Grievance Procedure	Deferred	In Need of Improvement
Youth Discipline	In Need of Improvement	In Need of Improvement
Library and Legal Services	Acceptable	Good

Staff/Youth Interactions: Acceptable

Evaluation of staff/youth interactions consists of staff and youth interviews, and anonymous youth survey results.

Youth Interviews

Most youth indicated staff are professional and follow policy.

Youth Survey Question(s)	“Yes”		
	2023	2024	2025
Have you been harassed or threatened by staff here?	29.1%	29.2%	27.1%
Have you ever been abused by staff here?	14.5%	6.9%	7.9%
Are the Youth Specialists usually professional and helpful?	60%	57.7%	58.3%

Youth Grievance Procedure: In Need of Improvement

Evaluation of the youth grievance procedure includes an interview with the Grievance Coordinator, a review of a random sample of grievances, the grievance untimely rate, and anonymous youth survey responses.

The previous rating was deferred due to a lack of information provided by DYS at the time of publication.

Grievance Coordinator Interview

An interview was conducted with the Grievance Coordinator (GC), in which the following was relayed: youth are educated on the grievance procedure during both reception and intake orientations, where they receive the Youth Grievance Procedure Handbook; the GC also attends monthly house meetings in each unit, and conducts rounds throughout the facility to allow for communication with youth; youth can file grievances both by placing paper grievances in the GC’s lockboxes located in all units and other high traffic areas, and by filing electronically through their tablets; grievance boxes for written submittals of grievances were present in the units.

Grievance Review

The CIIC reviewed ten grievances that had been closed since CIIC’s last inspection. All were investigated and responded to within policy requirements (159-YRI-07). A review of these responses focuses on timeliness, professionalism, understanding of the complaint, thoroughness of response, and whether the grievance coordinator attempted to resolve the issue at the lowest level possible. Overall, the reviewed responses were rated as “good.”

	Grievances Filed	Untimely Responses
2020	262	13%
2021	178	39%
2022	402	55%
2023	244	31%
2024	232	19%

FAIR TREATMENT

Youth Grievance Procedure: In Need of Improvement, Continued

Youth Survey Question(s)	"Yes"		
	2023	2024	2025
Are you able to use the youth grievance procedure?	81.8%	86.1%	71.2%

Youth Discipline: In Need of Improvement

Evaluation of youth discipline includes inspection of Youth separation rooms, observation of Youth Behavior Intervention Hearings (YBIH), data review of Youth Behavior Incident Reports (YBIR), instances of separation, separation hours for acts of violence, and staff interviews.

Separation/Solitary Confinement Rooms

When youth require separation/solitary confinement they are placed in their own rooms/cells. Therefore, no designated separation/solitary confinement rooms were available for inspection. Observations of youth rooms/cells appeared according to policy.

Youth Behavioral Intervention Hearing

During inspection CIIC observed one Youth Behavioral Intervention Hearing (156-DSC-01). The hearing officer followed all standard hearing protocols. The youth received the YBIR within twenty-four hours following the incident. The youth was allowed to make a statement, and was offered an appeal form. The youth advocate followed all standard hearing protocols. The youth advocate assisted the youth in understanding the rule, assisted the youth throughout the hearing, and helped the youth understand the disposition following a proven violation.

Separation/Solitary Confinement Instances and Duration

Separation, formerly known as Seclusion, has multiple uses within DYS facilities. However, it is not used as discipline. The goal of minimizing separation is defined in policy by the number of hours a youth is allowed to be kept in separation based on safety. If longer timeframes are necessary they must first be approved by a supervisor, the Superintendent, or Deputy Director.

From 2023 to 2024, the instances of separation/solitary confinement increased. In 2023, there were an average of 445 instances of separation/solitary confinement per week. In 2024, there was an average of 663 instances of separation/solitary confinement per week.

Act of Violence Separation/Solitary Confinement Hours

When a youth commits an act of violence, they are placed in separation/solitary confinement for a timeframe dependent on the type of violence and speed in which the youth is prepared for release. From 2023 to 2024, act of violence separation/solitary confinement hours decreased 7.5%. In 2023, with an average population of 129, each youth spent on average 5.5 hours in separation per month due to acts of violence. In 2024, with an average population of 142, each youth spent on average 4.6 hours in separation due to acts of violence. In 2023, there were an average of 176 hours of separation due to acts of violence per week. In 2024, there were an average of 163 hours of act of violence separation per week.

Staff Interviews

Staff from multiple levels and departments expressed concern over the lack of discipline for youth committing acts of violence. Most staff expressing concern felt releasing youth too early from separation/solitary confinement harms the youth and staff. Others believed Staff are also concerned youth not being awarded a perceived equitable level of discipline after an incident, a youth not completing the discipline sentence, the administration or central office modifying the rule violation or removing the rule violation, or a case investigated by the State Highway Patrol not being picked up by a prosecutor in the county to prosecute the youth.

Separation/Seclusion Instances by Duration

	2021	2022	2023	2024
0-4 Hours	1,687	6,367	15,369	18,905
4.1-8 Hours	122	1,948	4,019	10,649
8.1-24 Hours	454	4,302	1,816	2,247
24.1-36 Hours	29	12	16	8
36.1-48 Hours	4	7	11	2
48.1-56 Hours	7	3	5	0
56.1-72 Hours	2	4	2	0
72+ Hours	267	192	110	4
Total	2,572	12,835	21,348	31,815

Youth Discipline: In Need of Improvement, Continued

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Separation/Solitary Confinement Hours for Youth Involved in Acts of Violence	8,074	6,621	8,459	7,828
Total Separation Hours	67,247	92,884	83,833	118,644

Library & Legal Services: Good

Evaluation of library and legal services includes a tour of the library and legal services facility and an interview with the Librarian.

Library and Legal Services Facility

CJCF’s main library appeared spacious with a sufficient supply of diverse material. Each housing unit also had a satellite library consisting of two to three full-sized bookshelves of reading material that is rotated on a monthly basis. They were observed to be adequately stocked.

Since the last CIIC inspection, CJCF had hired a new librarian, so the library is now accessible to youth throughout the week.

Night and weekend hours were posted (157-EDU-08), and staff relayed youth also have access to a robust selection of reading materials that can be accessed in the housing unit satellite libraries. Youth can also utilize ATLO devices and their tablets to access additional material.

Librarian Interview

The CIIC conducted an interview with the librarian in which the following was relayed: surveys are sent to staff and students quarterly to discover new preference titles (157-EDU-08); the majority of the copywrites in the reference section are within the last five years, and she was in the process of reviewing them all (157-EDU-08); the librarian emails hours of operations to the Unit Managers who then notify the youth; the librarian has prioritized teaching youth about the Dewey Decimal System so they can properly utilize public libraries upon release; CJCF does not currently have a law library.

WORKFORCE READINESS

Key Findings

CJCF is currently a pilot for a new staff hired to handle all Intervention Hearings and Grievances.

As of February 4, 2024, Unit staffing had a 30.8% vacancy rate.

CJCF offers several unit programming opportunities including Clean (Choices, Leadership, Energy, Attitude, Now), No Kidding Ohio, Passages, and BUILD.

In 2024, CJCF had 103 volunteers, completing 2,081.25 volunteer hours.

Ralph C. Starkey High School declared thirteen youth truant from the period of July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

CJCF offered four vocational programs at the time of inspection, including: Transitional Skills, Career-Based Instruction, Media Arts, and Rise Up Credentialing.

admission (153-CLS-01); all youth had been reclassified every six months (153-CLS-03); any Intervention Hearing invalidated is discussed at a weekly meeting via a weekly report; case managers ensure youth have their social security card and birth certificate in their My Important Documents Folder (102-REN-03); Youth Council meetings are held monthly (173-PRG-01); House Meetings are held weekly (173-UMA-01); youth have access to Ohio Means Jobs weekly (102-REN-04); CJCF is currently a pilot for a new staff hired to handle all of Intervention Hearings and Grievances.

Correctional Program Specialist Focus Group

On the day of inspection, Correctional Program Specialists (CPS) had an out-of-office training. Therefore, no focus group was conducted.

Reentry Resource Area

A Ohio Means Jobs Center is a partnership of state and local agencies and organizations that provide free employment-related services to job-seekers such as job search tools, resume writing, information on training, and supportive services. CJCF had a Ohio Means Jobs Center and five Ohio Means Jobs computers available in the recreation multi-purpose room. Staff confirmed that the computers were not connected to the internet. The schedule to access the Ohio Means Jobs Center computers was posted in each housing unit.

	2024	2025
WORKFORCE READINESS	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
Reentry Planning and Programming	In Need of Improvement	Acceptable
Family & Community Connections	Deferred	Good
Academic Programming	Deferred	Acceptable
Vocational & Work Skill Development	Deferred	Good

Reentry Planning & Programming: Acceptable

Evaluation of reentry planning and programming includes staffing, an interview with the Unit Management Administrator, a Correctional Program Specialist focus group, an observation of the reentry resource area, unit based programming data.

Staffing

As of February 4, 2024, staffing consisted of five Unit Managers and four Correctional Program Specialists (Case Managers). Vacancies included one Unit Manager and three Case Managers (30.8% vacancy rate).

Unit Management Administrator Interview

The Unit Management Administrator was interviewed and relayed the following: all youth with a high school diploma or GED were enrolled in a work, college, or career tech program, however work opportunities were limited; the vocational building is nearing completion, and maintenance jobs for youth have been paused as the staff maintenance team is working the sally-port (154-WRK-01); all youth had been classified within fourteen days of

WORKFORCE READINESS

Reentry Planning & Programming: Acceptable, Continued

<i>Unit Programming</i>	Program	Enrolled	Waitlist
The CIIC requested unit program and enrollment data for 2025. The DYS stated they were unable to provide the information. This is a concern as courts and the Release Authority rely on these programs for sentencing and release. This is the third year in a row the DYS has been unable to provide the requested program information.	New Freedom Program	N/A	N/A
	Personal Responsibility and Education Program	N/A	N/A
	Every Child Matters	N/A	N/A
	Core B	N/A	N/A
	Victim Awareness	N/A	N/A

Family Engagement & Community Connections: Good

Evaluation of family engagement and community connections consists of youth community service programming, volunteers and volunteer hours, visitation room observations, youth interviews, and anonymous youth survey results.

Community Service Programming

CJCF had six community service projects at the time of inspection; Color a Smile, Crayons to Computers Crafts, VA cards, Princess Cards, Haven House, and plastic sleeping mats. Color a Smile is a non profit that distributes drawings from youth to senior citizens, troops overseas, and anyone in need of a smile. Crayons to Computers is a program in which youth complete packets of materials needed for schools in Hamilton County. This program allows teachers to go up to ten times a year to fill a cart with needed items for their classroom. Princess Cards allows youth to create cards for human trafficking victims at the local homeless shelter. It was reported that CJCF had completed 5,595 community service hours in 2024.

Volunteers

In 2024, CJCF had 103 volunteers, completing 2,081.25 volunteer hours. Volunteers contribute to the facility in numerous ways such as conducting programming. Such programming included Youth for Christ, True Freedom Ministries, Islamic Services, and Epiphany Christian Ministries.

Visitation

The visitation room was observed. Staff relayed that visitation is available four days a week though youth do not receive many visitors on average. There were two vending machines and one microwave to allow youth to share a snack with visitors. There were rooms available for no-contact visits and for attorney visits, as well as docks for youth tablets to conduct video visits. Available was a reading room stocked with toys and books for younger children to enjoy during their visit (175-MAL-04).

No visitation guidelines were viewed at the entrance of visitation. It was relayed that visitors receive visitation guidelines via snail mail prior to their visit.

Youth Interviews

Most Youth interviewed indicated that they felt safe at the facility. Some indicated gang activity prevents them from using the phone to connect with loved ones. Most youth complained about being in their rooms and not having anything to do.

Youth Survey Question(s)	"Yes"		
	2023	2024	2025
<i>Have you had any problems with mail?</i>	56.4%	83.1%	63.5%
<i>Have you had any problems with telephones?</i>	54.5%	57.7%	77.8%
<i>Have you had any problems with visitation?</i>	34.5%	41.7%	27.1%

WORKFORCE READINESS

Academic Programming: Acceptable

Evaluation of Academic Programming consists of facility observations, staffing, and interview with the Principal, youth GED completions and diplomas, and anonymous youth survey responses.

Academic Programming Facility

Circleville’s education facility consisted of staff offices and classrooms in three separate hallways, one of which was dedicated to vocational and career-tech programming. All areas were clean and orderly at the time of inspection.

Staffing

As of February 4, 2025, staffing consisted of one Principal, one Assistant Principal, two Administrative Professionals, two Guidance Counselors, one Adult Teacher Aide, and twenty-six teachers. Vacancies included four Teachers (10.5% vacancy rate).

Principle Interview

The Principal confirmed that Student Success Plans were tracked through the Guidance Counselor who meets with the students regularly. Youth are assessed when they arrive at CJCF, staff provide resources, and they meet with the youth on a regular basis to track progress.

All staff had the appropriate education license for their position on file. The school principal monitored facility conditions and ensured that education supplies were available for use when necessary (157-EDU-01). Students all meet the ODE 1,001 seat hours in a classroom and the 5.6 hours of class per day requirements. The principal relayed violence is a cause for concern at school as students can become frustrated and embarrassed during classes, leading them to act out violently. The current teacher to student ratio is roughly 1:9 but can sometimes be 1:10 or 1:11. The facility staffing shortage is a continuing concern that affects the CJCF school.

Classroom sizes were relayed as being a concern as oftentimes teachers are asked to serve multiple grades and multiple subjects in one classroom. This can place a strain on teachers and can affect the quality of education that the youth receive.

Ralph C. Starkey High School declared thirteen youth truant from the period of July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Program Observation

The CIIC attended an English class per O.R.C. 103.73. The class focused on developing fundamental English skills to students working towards their GED. The classroom was clean and conducive to learning with class rules posted on the class walls. Present in the class were four students of varying grade levels. The CIIC found the teacher to be attentive and willing to offer assistance. She went to each student to check their progress on the worksheet and answer any questions. The students were focused on their work when the teacher worked with them one-on-one, but they frequently got distracted when left to work by themselves. The CIIC staff’s presence in the class was likely a distraction that contributed to this.

Ralph C. Starkey	GED Completions	High School Diplomas
2019-2020	19	7
2020-2021	15	14
2021-2022	13	17
2022-2023	11	7
2023-2024	6	15

WORKFORCE READINESS

Academic Programming: Acceptable, Continued

Teacher Focus Group

The CIIC conducted a focus group with a large group of teachers. Facility-wide safety and staffing shortages were a large concern. They thought resources and programs should be offered based on how violent youth have been. Gangs were a major concern. Gangs control phones, and since most of the gang leaders are nonviolent, they are PRIDE level 3s and 4s, offering them more freedom than low-level gang members. Punishment is not proportional to the rule violations committed by youth.

Teachers felt that youth are coddled and not held accountable because of traumas they have faced in the past, which can be counterproductive. They also thought teachers should be able to file restraining orders on youth that assault them. Currently if a youth assaults a teacher the youth will be suspended and will remain in his unit, away from the school. Youth can also break facility property with impunity without facing any economic repercussions.

All teachers stated that the staff shortage in Youth Specialist positions hindered education. When the turnover is so high, it causes youth to get distracted with new employees. A lack of experienced Youth Specialists also causes logistical difficulties in getting youth to their classes on time. They thought a job shadowing program would be useful to teach new employees about the facility environment before going to the academy for training. Teachers also relayed that there should be an increase in pay given the volatile and dangerous environment of the facility.

The high number of youth being transferred to and from the different DYS facilities makes it difficult for teachers to form positive relationships with the youth. It also creates a distraction for the youth and makes it difficult for them to progress in their curriculum.

In November 2023, the DYS vendor changed the question and response. In 2024, DYS ensured the vendor changed the question and answers back to their original format.

Youth Survey Question(s)	"Yes"	"Easy or Neutral"	
	2023	2024	2025
How easy or difficult is it to get into Academic Programming?	N/A	44.3%	66.7%
Do you know how to get the following after release? Academic Programming.	44.4%	N/A	N/A

Vocational & Work Skill Development: Good

Evaluation of vocational and work skill development consists of observations of the vocational facility, programming, and anonymous youth survey results.

Vocational Facility

Facilities consisted of classrooms and program rooms. At the time of inspection there was a new program building being built, designed to house new vocational programs. All areas were clean, orderly, and conducive to learning. When asked about the DYS goal to move to smaller facilities, staff hoped that the brand-new vocational facility would not be abandoned as it was expensive to build, time-consuming, and will be state of the art.

Programming

CJCF offered four vocational programs at the time of inspection, including: Transitional Skills, Career-Based Instruction, Media Arts, and Rise Up Credentialing. It was reported that due to the recent addition of the Construction Technology, Ground Transportation, and Hospitality and Tourism vocational programs, there are no youth yet enrolled. Due to being in year one of their vocational program offerings with Ralph C. Starkey High School, there had been zero completions. Staff thought it would be useful to offer the same programs at each DYS facilities so that when youth are transferred, they can continue with the same program they were enrolled in before they were transferred.

WORKFORCE READINESS

Vocational & Work Skill Development: Good, Continued

Program	Enrolled	Waitlist
Transitional Skills	40	0
Career-Based Instruction	14	6
Media Arts	42	0
Rise Up Credentialing	6	0
Construction Tech	0	0
Ground Transportation	0	0
Hospitality and Tourism	0	0

In November 2023, the tablet vendor for DYS changed the survey question and response options regarding vocational programming. In 2024 DYS ensured the vendor changed the question and response options back to their original format.

Youth Survey Question(s)	"Yes"	"Easy or Neutral"	
	2023	2024	2025
<i>How easy or difficult is it to get into Career-Tech Training?</i>	N/A	44.1%	49.1%
<i>Do you know how to get the following after release? Career-Tech Training.</i>	37.7%	N/A	N/A

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Key Findings

CJCF's General Revenue Fund (GRF) budget in FY 2024 was \$33,794,321. The facility utilized 95.2% of their budget.

In 2025, CJCF will be completing the construction of their \$4,990,254 program building. The future of the building is uncertain as DYS plans to replace their existing facilities with smaller facilities.

Per DYS Central Office, utility costs were unable to be provided as they are no longer tracked.

As of January 27, 2025, there were thirteen staff on leave, five of which were on Occupational Injury Leave. Including the number of staff on leave, the total vacancy rate rises to 14.4% and the youth specialist vacancy rate to 15.7%.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	2024 Deferred	2025 Good
Fiscal Wellness	Deferred	In Need of Improvement
Energy & Waste Management	Deferred	Deferred
Staff Management	Deferred	In Need of Improvement

Fiscal Wellness: In Need of Improvement
Evaluation of fiscal wellness includes a document review of annual per diems, the institution budget status report, fiscal audits, overtime, and capital improvement projects.

In 2024 this section was deferred due to a lack of information provided by DYS upon request.

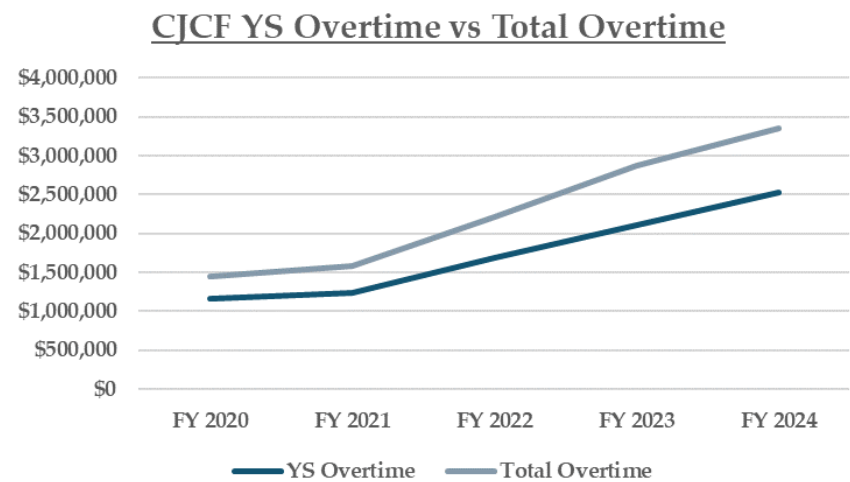
The 2020 per diem was higher than nearly all contiguous states, the only data on record.

Annual Cost Per Youth	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
	\$209,052	\$268,420	\$217,387	\$241,104	\$237,779

Institutional Budget and Fiscal Audits
CJCF's General Revenue Fund (GRF) budget in FY 2024 was \$33,794,321. The facility utilized 95.2% of their budget.

The Fiscal Audit from 2024 revealed all internal funds were in balance and compliant. The areas requiring corrective action were related to asset management, incentive gift cards, and payment cards.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
YS Overtime	\$1,167,154	\$1,230,569	\$1,681,871.27	\$2,101,332	\$2,527,947
Total Overtime	\$1,448,690	\$1,586,530	\$2,206,231.88	\$2,765,000	\$3,344,351



Capital Improvement	
Projects FY 2025	Cost
Program Building	\$4,990,253.95
ELPAS Upgrade Phase 2	\$88,651,.04
AC Replacement Project	\$156,750
Door Replacement	\$770,000

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Energy & Waste Management: Deferred

Evaluation of energy & waste management includes a document review of the utility costs and an interview of staff regarding the implementation of cost saving initiatives.

This section is again being deferred due to a lack of information provided by DYS upon request.

Utility Costs

Utility costs were not provided upon request, the second year in a row.

Cost Savings Initiatives

An interview was conducted with the Business Administrator at the time of inspection. It was reported that CJCF’s most effective cost saving initiatives included a lighting project to reduce electrical costs and metal recycling.

Energy Type	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Water (gal)	\$54,224	\$56,000	\$69,395	N/A	N/A
Natural Gas (ccf)	\$53,989	\$65,366	\$97,670	N/A	N/A
Electric (kwh)	\$258,777	\$250,571	\$305,727	N/A	N/A
Total Costs	\$366,990	\$371,937	\$472,792	N/A	N/A

Staff Management: In Need of Improvement

Evaluation of staff management includes a data review of staffing, vacancies, staff separation rates, employee training and evaluations, staff interviews, transitional separation, and anonymous staff surveys.

This section was deferred in 2024 due to a lack of information provided by DYS upon request.

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility is at a critical staffing level. Some interviewed staff indicated they’re being mandated to work a sixteen hour shift five days a week. Recently, executive staff again began working in units to alleviate Transitional Separation.

Staffing, Vacancies, and Staff Separations

As of February 4, 2025, CJCF employed 244 total staff, of which 123 were Youth Specialists. There were 26 total vacancies (9.6%), of which 11 were Youth Specialists (8.2%).

As of January 27, 2025, there were thirteen staff on leave, five of which were on Occupational Injury Leave. Including the number of staff on leave, the total vacancy rate rises to 14.4% and the youth specialist vacancy rate to 15.7%.

Staff Separation	Number of Separations	Percentage of Staff
2022	117	53.4%
2023	146	58.6%
2024	148	60.7%

Employee Training and Evaluations

In SFY 24, CJCF employees completed mandated training at 90%. SFY 23 mandated employee training was completed for 94% of staff. SFY 22 saw 94.0% of staff training completed. Staff unable to be trained included those off work during the timeframe due to approved leave statue and staff hired during the training cycle.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Staff Management: In Need of Improvement, Continued

Staff Interviews

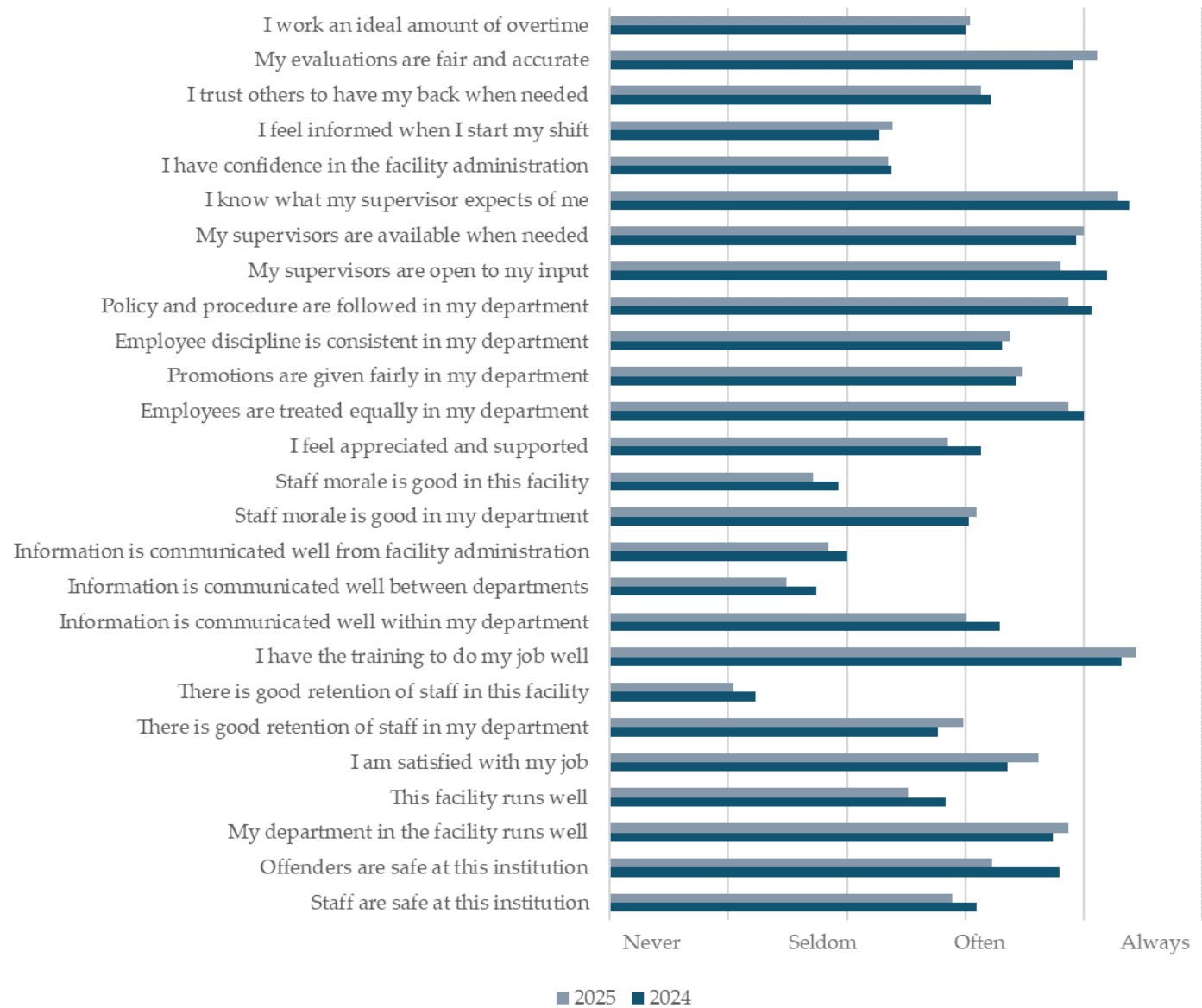
CIIC interviewed eight Youth Specialists who provided the following insight regarding the CJCF workplace environment. Most Youth Specialists rated staff safety as “low.” Youth safety was rated as “low to high.” Staff morale was rated as “low to average.” All Youth Specialists interviewed were concerned with the lack of accountability for youth who violate departmental rules. Youth Specialist reported they were required to work overtime multiple times per week. All interviewed reported staff turnover was a serious concern. All staff felt the facility administrators were running the facility well, but the staff mandations and violence were problematic.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Staff Management: In Need of Improvement, Continued

The CIIC received 62 surveys responses from CJCF staff. This makes up 25.4% of CJCF staff.

Staff Surveys



CITATIONS

- i. CIIC Inspection Report, CJCF, 2023.
- ii. CIIC Inspection Report, CJCF, 2024.
- iii. ACA Reaccreditation Audit, CJCF, 2024.
- iv. ODYS Internal Management Audit, CJCF, 2024.
- v. DOJ PREA Audit, CJCF, 2022.

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