

REPORT ON THE  
INSPECTION OF

---

# PICKAWAY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

---

**INSPECTION DATE: MAY 27, 2026**



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Pickaway Correctional Institution

Inspection Date: May 27, 2026

**Acronym:** PCI  
**Address:** 11781 St. Rt. 762 Orient, Ohio 43146  
**Warden/Superintendent:** George A. Frederick  
**CFIS Members Present:** J. Wesson / D. Drummond / D. Thompson / B. Forrest

## INSTITUTION INFORMATION

**Date Institution Opened:** 1984  
**Population Type:** ☒ Male ☐ Female  
**Security Level Type:** ☒ Minimum  
☒ Medium  
☐ Reception  
☐ Special Management  
☐ Restrictive Housing  
☐ Death Row  
☐ Juvenile  
**Total Acres:** 1,803  
**Total Buildings On-Site:** 16  
**Total Custody Staff:** 226  
**Total Service Area Staff:** 174  
**Total Staff:** 400  
**Total Volunteers:** 335

## INCARCERATED PERSON (IP) INFORMATION

**Current Count:** 1,708  
**Total Available Capacity:** 2,088  
**IP Age Range:** 18 - 80  
**IP Average Age:** 45.6

PCI is an adult male institution. PCI manages a minimum- and medium-security population and is accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). Established in 1984, the institution is structured with an open dorm-style occupancy across distinct units, each designed to house approximately 244 IPs. The institution has a maximum capacity of 2,088 IPs. On the date of inspection, PCI reported a total occupancy of 1,708 IPs. The Frazier Health Center is also located on the grounds of PCI.

## RECENT INTERNAL MANAGEMENT AUDIT

PCI's most recent Internal Management Audit (IMA) was conducted on February 2-4, 2026. The IMA is an annual audit conducted by an independent auditor who reviews an institution's compliance with the ACA's 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Standards and the 2026 Ohio Standards and Observations, in preparation for the next ACA audit. All institutional work, industries, vocational, and educational programs are also audited. The table below illustrates PCI's rates of compliance for the previous three years:

| IMA Audit Scores  | 2024 | 2025 | 2026  |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|
| ACA Mandatory     | 100% | 100% | 100%  |
| ACA Non-Mandatory | 99%  | 99%  | 99.3% |
| Ohio Standards    | 97%  | 89%  | 85.7% |

| External Inspection Results           | Date of Inspection | Violations | Violations Corrected |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|
| State Fire Marshall                   | 11/20/25           | 2          | 0                    |
| State Fire Marshall                   | 12/4/25            | 2          | 2                    |
| Health Department                     | 5/15/25            | 4          | 4                    |
| Health Department                     | 11/20/25           | 3          | 3                    |
| Annual Safety & Sanitation Inspection | 2/4/26             | 24         | 17                   |

## OVERVIEW OF CFIS INSPECTION

On May 27, 2026, CFIS completed an initial inspection of PCI. Warden George Frederick was notified the day prior that CFIS inspectors would be arriving at 9 a.m. the following day to conduct the inspection. CFIS inspectors were on site at PCI for approximately four hours. CFIS consisted of James Wesson, Ph.D., chief of inspections; Deborah Drummond, chief inspector; Bryan Forrest, inspector; and Derek Thompson, inspector.

Per Ohio Revised Code Section 109.39, mandatory areas of inspection are food services, the grievance process, and an educational or rehabilitative program. In addition to these mandatory areas of inspection, O.R.C. 109.39 empowers CFIS to inspect any other areas that it deems appropriate. While at PCI, CFIS also inspected the following areas:

- Recovery services
- Frazier Health Center
- Library/law library
- Transitional programming unit (TPU)
- Mental health
- Visitation area
- General population housing units
- Specialized housing units
- Ohio Penal Industries (OPI)
- Recreation

In advance of arrival, CFIS requested copies of PCI's Administrative Duty Officer (ADO) reports from the past seven days, the most recent 30 days of grievances, and the following:

- Current vacancy rates (total staff/custody/non-custody overtime report)
- Current institution IP count (racial breakdown, average age)
- Current institution security threat group numbers
- Institution drug testing (previous quarter)
- Institution educational program numbers (program enrollment/completion)
- Approved volunteers (total)
- Institution Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) reports (past year/current, total of completed investigations)

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Ohio Administrative Rule 5120-9-31)**

The DRC IP grievance procedure is a three-step process which is governed by Ohio Administrative Code Section 5120-9-31. The goal of the process is to address IP complaints related to institutional life which directly and personally affect IPs, including those related to DRC policies and procedures, conditions of confinement, or the actions of the institutional staff. Whenever possible, complaints should be resolved at the lowest step. Informal complaints must contain enough specificity to allow institutional staff to investigate and take corrective action, where necessary (e.g., the date, time, and place of the event, the name or names of personnel involved and witnesses). An IP may file a "John/Jane Doe" complaint if he or she does not know the identity of the personnel involved. Such complaints must still provide specific dates, times, places, and the physical descriptions of personnel, as well as the actions giving rise to the complaint.

The steps to the process are set forth below:

### ***Step One: The filing of an informal complaint:***

An IP must file an informal complaint within 14 calendar days of the event about which the complaint is being filed. The complaint shall be filed to the direct supervisor of the staff member or department most directly responsible for the subject matter of the complaint. Staff shall respond within seven calendar days of receipt of the informal complaint, though the inspector of institutional services (IIS) may grant an additional four calendar days for response. The IIS is required to ensure that IP's informal complaint is responded to within seven calendar days. If it is not, the informal complaint step is waived, and the IP may proceed to step two. Informal complaint responses must reflect an understanding of the IP's complaint, be responsive to the issue, cite any relevant departmental or institutional rules or policies, and specify the action taken, if any.

The IIS is responsible for monitoring compliance with the informal complaint process and reports any pattern of non-compliance to the warden for appropriate action. The IIS may also waive the informal complaint process (step one) if, among other reasons, he or she determines that there is a substantial risk of physical injury to the grievant. Further, if an IP does not meet policy requirements — such as failing to submit an informal complaint resolution (ICR) within 14 calendar days of the event or failing to include specific details, such as dates, times, locations, personnel descriptions, and relevant actions that led to the complaint — then the IIS will notify the IP that the grievance procedure is not appropriate and state why it was denied.

***Step Two: The filing of the notification of grievance:***

If the IP is dissatisfied with the informal complaint response, or the informal complaint process has been waived, the IP may file a notification of grievance with the IIS no later than 14 calendar days from the date of the informal complaint response or waiver of the informal complaint step. The IIS may waive this time frame for good cause. Within 14 calendar days of receiving the grievance the IIS shall provide a written response which summarizes the complaint, describes the steps taken to investigate it, and sets forth the IIS's findings and decision. The IIS may extend the response time up to 14 days with notice to the IP. If there is no disposition within 28 days from the receipt of the grievance, it will be deemed unresolved, and the IP may proceed to step three of the process. Expedited responses shall be made to grievances that, as determined by the IIS, present a substantial risk of physical injury to the grievant or for other good causes.

***Step Three: The filing of an appeal for the disposition of grievance:***

If an IP disagrees with the grievance resolution, he or she may appeal it to the office of the chief inspector. An appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of the disposition, unless that time is waived by the chief inspector for good cause. The chief inspector, or his or her designee(s), shall provide a written response to the appeal within 30 days of receipt, unless that time is extended for good cause and with notice to the IP. The chief inspector/designee's decision on the appeal is final.

**Are IPs issued tablets with access to the grievance procedure:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Are institutional staff answering ICRs within policy:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**If issued tablets are not available, are there other measures in place to provide access to the grievance procedure (e.g., open office hours):** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Upon reviewing responses, are there any issues with timelines or lack of substance within the responses to the ICRs:** ☐Yes ☒No ☐N/A

**Additional Notes:** While inspecting PCI, CFIS focused on ensuring that the institution systematically logs and tracks grievances in DRC's electronic system, ViaPath. The review also verified that staff respond to grievances in a timely manner and that all responses align with policy guidelines.

CFIS reviewed 15 of the 143 grievances filed from April 27 through May 27, 2026. The review highlighted grievances related to medical services, staff accountability, and staff conduct.

CFIS observed no indications of retaliation against IPs for filing grievances. A review of grievances and ICRs showed thorough staff responses that appropriately referenced DRC policies and administrative rules.

The PCI grievance process is currently being conducted in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 5120-9-31.

## **FOOD SERVICE AREA INSPECTION (60-FSM-02)**

The Food Service Department was inspected to ensure compliance with DRC policy 60-FSM-02, Food Service Operations, and DRC policy 60-FSM-06, Safety and Health Protection for Staff and Incarcerated Individuals Assigned to Food Service.

**Executive staff/supervisors conducting unannounced rounds:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

## A. SANITATION

- Dining room(s) meet DRC policy for cleanliness: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Serving line(s) meet DRC policy: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Dish room area meets DRC policy for cleanliness: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Dishwasher water temperature meets DRC policy: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Handwashing stations in working order: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Handwashing stations operate at a proper temperature: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Eye washing stations operate appropriately: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

## B. FOOD SERVING & STORAGE COMPLIANCE

- Appropriate food menus posted: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Food temperatures in compliance with DRC policy: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Food service workers wearing hairnets, gloves, etc.: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Serving utensils appear to be in good working order: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Freezer temperatures in compliance with DRC policy: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

## C. CHEMICAL & TOOL CONTROL

- Tools properly stored/signed out/accounted for: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Tools properly etched with an identifier: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Chemicals properly stored and inventoried: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Additional Notes:** During inspection, CFIS sampled a lunch meal that included pizza, salad, carrots, noodles, cake, and milk. The meal was appropriate in portion size, and met policy standards for taste, appearance, and temperature.

Aramark food service staff and IP workers were appropriately dressed in protective clothing, including hair and beard nets, and rubber gloves, within the food service department. Uniforms were neat and clean. The food service area was orderly. The spring menu was posted.

Food was properly labeled and dated. The dish room was clean and dish cleaning water temperatures followed DRC policy 60-FSM-02. ServSafe certification was also verified. The food service area used DRC approved cleaning chemicals and disinfectants.

It was noted that the food service department experienced a freezer breakdown on the morning of the inspection. The items from the affected unit were successfully transferred to two alternate freezers, and a corrective action plan was already in place to repair the equipment.

The back dock area was clean and free of odor, and the vicinity of the trash compactor was free of debris.

No signs of rodents or pests were observed in the food service area or on the dock. CFIS interviewed several Aramark staff members and the food service manager; none reported concerns or issues constituting violations of DRC policy.

**In2Work Program:** DRC and Aramark have partnered to provide the In2Work program, which allows IPs to train for roles comparable to a food service manager. Participants must earn and maintain industry certifications, which remain available to them upon release. The program is designed to provide the skills necessary for a career in the culinary arts. CFIS spoke with In2Work participants who expressed high satisfaction with the program, noting the value of the experience for their future reentry. During inspection, participants were observed actively engaged in meal preparation.

## EDUCATION & REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS (57-EDU-01- 02)

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) offers educational programs designed to meet the needs of IPs throughout DRC, including PCI. OCSS programs include adult education courses, vocational training, and technical training, all of which incorporate technology into the programs. Collectively, the programs are designed to enhance IP employability opportunities upon release.

### A. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Does the institution have an Education Department for in-person learning? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Programs offered: ☒ GED ☒ ACADEMIC ☒ CAREER-TECH ☒ APPRENTICESHIP ☒ VOCATIONAL

☒ DEGREE PROGRAMS/CERT. ☐ OTHER: ☐ N/A

Are there currently any vacant teaching/staff positions within the education dept.: ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Does the education department area comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Additional Notes:** The education department within PCI was large with numerous classrooms. On the date of inspection, PCI's academic and rehabilitative programs included:

- |                                                                  |                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| • Adult basic education                                          | • Landscape management tech               |
| • Pre-GED                                                        | • Painter                                 |
| • GED                                                            | • Plumber                                 |
| • Sinclair Community College (certificate and associates degree) | • Hazardous waste material tech           |
| • Career technology                                              | • Business operations service and support |
| • Literacy                                                       | • Meat cutter                             |
| • Electrical maintenance                                         | • Nurse assistant (certificate)           |

PCI provides classes in traditional classroom settings, face-to-face formats, hybrid models, and digital platforms. IPs can participate in classes within the education department. The institution accommodates individuals with learning disabilities to ensure equitable access.

PCI partners with Sinclair Community College to offer college credit courses. The institution's literacy, GED, and post-secondary educational programs meet the needs of participants and provide ample opportunities. Vocational training is tailored to current job market demands.

The education department includes an Ohio Means Jobs site, offering specialized employment services such as job searching, interview preparation, and resume support for reentry.

CFIS verified the instructors' qualifications, confirming compliance. PCI's educational materials and technology are up to date.

Staff consistently log and track enrollment and attendance accurately.

No violations of DRC 57-EDU-08, Education Staff Credentials, were noted or observed during inspection.

## **B. REHABILITATIVE/REENTRY PROGRAMS**

**Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Rehabilitative/reentry programs offered:** Recovery Maintenance Program, Intensive Outpatient Program, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Brief Intervention Program, Continuing Care Program, Medically Assisted Treatment Program, Peer Support, Starting Point, and Harmony Project.

**Appropriate signage/information displayed:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Does the reentry department inspected comply with DRC standards for cleanliness:**

☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Additional Notes:** PCI provides an extensive range of recovery services to assist IPs. The Harmony Project, a volunteer-driven initiative established in 2014, convenes weekly and engages 55 to 60 community volunteers with IPs. This program is dedicated to connecting participants from various faiths, ethnicities, backgrounds, and perspectives, thereby promoting empathy and constructive transformation. Furthermore, the Harmony Project offers post-release support to IPs by facilitating access to volunteer opportunities and stable employment.

For substance abuse intervention, AA and NA deliver specialized tracks tailored to the length of an IP's remaining sentence. The short-term track consists of a six-week program meeting twice weekly for those with one year or less remaining on their sentence. The long-term track comprises a flexible, six-month program meeting four times per week for IPs who have more than one year left on their sentence. Similarly, the Starting Point program divides participants according to sentence duration, with short-term IPs attending group sessions twice weekly for two hours, and long-term IPs participating in sessions four times weekly for two to four hours.

Currently, there are two vacancies for correctional program coordinator positions within the behavioral services department.

No violations of DRC policy were noted or observed during inspection.

## **MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH (68-MED-01 & 67-MNH-15)**

### **A. MEDICAL SERVICES**

**Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Services offered:** Dialysis, IV therapy, telemedicine, medication distribution (three times per day), doctor sick call, dental, optometry, X-ray, long-term chronic care, and inpatient and outpatient detoxification.

**Are there any staffing vacancies within the medical dept.:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Appropriate signage/information displayed:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Does the medical department meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Are there any maintenance issues that may hinder sufficient medical care:** ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

**Are there any ongoing hunger strikes, constant watches, dry cells, or special supervision IPs in this area:**  
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

**Additional Notes:** The Frazier Health Center at PCI is a substantial two-story building dedicated to a comprehensive range of medical services. The building includes a 32-bed dialysis section, opioid management provisions, and oxygen toxicity treatment. The first floor is structured for general healthcare needs and contains a 20-bed infirmary; four IPs were housed in the infirmary at the time of inspection. The department also provides a constant watch cell for IP observation, with two alternative rooms available if needed. Additionally, the first floor encompasses areas for optometry, dental care, telemedicine, laboratory diagnostics, EKGs, and intravenous therapy, along with designated rooms for privacy, sick calls, and laundry. IPs are afforded access to ice machines, telephones, and tablet charging stations. The second floor addresses the needs of individuals with chronic health conditions (refer to Specialized Housing Unit #2). A collaborative partnership exists between the medical department and The Ohio State University (OSU) through the DRC/OSU internal medicine rotation program. This partnership allows OSU interns to engage in job shadowing and clinical rotations at PCI, thereby enhancing PCI recruitment efforts for future medical staff. A capital improvement project is underway to add 504 beds to the institution, scheduled for completion in 2028.

No violations of DRC policy 68-MED-01, Medical Services, were noted or observed during inspection.

## **B. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Services offered:** Outpatient mental health, peer support, groups sessions, and treatment team.

**Are there any staffing vacancies within the mental health dept.:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Appropriate signage/information displayed:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Does the mental health department meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Are there any maintenance issues that may hinder sufficient mental health care:** ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

**Does the institution have sufficient space for staff to see patients for mental health care:**  
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Additional Notes:** PCI currently manages a mental health caseload of 460 IPs. The institution operates a peer support program led by five IPs who facilitate various group activities. PCI offers a mental health library and several therapeutic programs including walking groups, pet therapy, equine therapy, poetry sessions, diamond art cardmaking, and crochet classes. In addition, PCI partners with the Columbus Developmental

Center to assist IPs with disabilities. There are presently five vacancies within the mental health department: two vacancies for behavioral health care providers 2, one vacancy for behavioral health care provider 1, one vacancy for a psychiatry/dissociative disorder nurse, and one vacancy for a physician administrator 2.

No violations of DRC policy 67-MNH-15, Mental Health Treatment, were noted or observed during inspection.

## RECREATION (77-REC-01)

### A. RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Types of recreation programs offered: Basketball, weight cage, billiards, and cornhole.

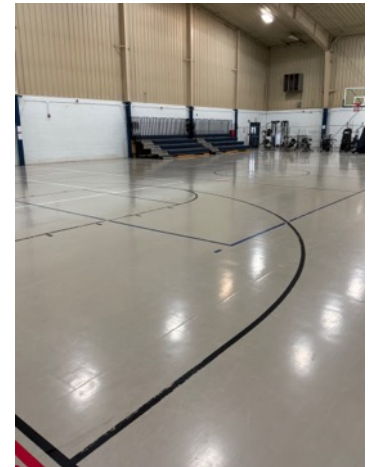
Types of recreation: ☒ Indoor ☒ Outdoor ☐ N/A

Are equipment and facilities in working order: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Does the recreation department comply with DRC policy standards for cleanliness: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Additional Notes:** The recreation activity therapy administrator at PCI was present during the inspection. The indoor recreation area was deemed adequate for IPs, and the outdoor recreation area was sufficient, offering a softball/baseball field, basketball courts, and exercise equipment. PCI conducts open recreation sessions during unrestricted movement periods, enabling IPs to participate based on their individual schedules.

No violations of DRC policy 77-REC-01, Recreation and Leisure Time Activities, were noted or observed during inspection.



*PCI Recreation Gymnasium with Weight Cage*

## LIBRARY (58-LIB-01)

### A. LIBRARY

- Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Does the library provide access to LexisNexis: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Does the library have policies and procedures available: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Does the library have operation hours and information posted: ☐Yes ☐No ☒N/A
- Does the library have a community partner to assist with services: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Does the library meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness: ☐Yes ☐No ☒N/A

**Additional Notes:** PCI was renovating the library during inspection, but materials required under DRC policy – copies of policies, Ohio revised and administrative codes, and a law library – were accessible to IPs. Once renovations are complete, there will be a larger space for IPs.

No violations of DRC policy 58-LIB-01, Comprehensive Library Services, were noted or observed during inspection.

## VISITATION (76-VIS-01)

### A. VISITATION

**Visitation hours:** Sunday-Saturday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

- Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Visits allowed: ☒Contact ☒Non-contact ☐Semi-Contact
- Does the visitation area provide adequate seating: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Does visitation area provide food and drink options: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Appropriate signage/information displayed: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Does the visitation area meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Additional Notes:** On the day of inspection, PCI's visitation area was well maintained. The institution provides both contact and non-contact visits. Contact visits allow visitors and IPs to physically interact, such as embracing or participating together in activities like games, meals, and coloring. In contrast, non-contact visits involve a physical barrier, a wall with a glass window, so visitors and IPs cannot touch or embrace.

The area was structured to provide IPs and their families with an environment conducive to fostering positive interactions, particularly among children. Children's books were accessible for use during visits. Additionally, vending machines and a food-ordering service were available to visitors for the purchase of snacks and beverages. Video visits may also be conducted using ViaPath tablets within authorized designated areas of the institution.

No violations of DRC policy 76-VIS-01, Incarcerated Person Visitation, were noted or observed during inspection.

## GENERALIZED HOUSING

### A. GENERAL POPULATION HOUSING #1

Name/Identifier: A-2

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Does this housing unit offer programming: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Type of unit: ☒Open Dorm ☐Cells

Housing unit max capacity: 244

Are equipment and facilities in working order: ☐Yes ☒No ☐N/A

Does the housing unit meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Additional Notes:** A-2 is a general population dormitory unit that provides prosocial activities and group programming for IPs. The unit was staffed by one corrections officer, sergeant, case manager, and a unit manager. The unit also participates in community service initiatives, including the creation of mats for homeless individuals who have been identified as survivors of human trafficking.

During inspection, a minor maintenance issue was identified involving a non-operational shower. Staff were following the established repair procedures in accordance with DRC policy 21-CAM-12, Preventative Maintenance and General Work Orders.

No additional violations of DRC policy were noted or observed during inspection.

## SPECIALIZED HOUSING

### A. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #1

Name/Identifier: Transitional Program Unit (TPU)

Type of Specialized Housing: ☒ Special Management Housing (55-SPC-02) ☐ RTU (67-MNH-23)

☐ Reception (52-RCP-01, 02, 06) ☐ Death Row (67-MNH-31, 52-RCP-02)

☐ Limited Privilege Housing ☐ Level 1/Outside Worker ☐ Nursery

☐ Dementia ☐ Protective Custody ☐ Other:

Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Appropriate signage/information displayed: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Does this specialized housing offer programming: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Type of unit: ☐Open Dorm ☒Cells

Housing unit max capacity: 120

Are equipment and facilities in working order: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Does the housing unit inspected comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Additional Notes:** TPU is a specialized housing unit managed by three corrections officers on the first and second shifts, two on the third shift, plus a captain, lieutenant, and two sergeants. PREA posters and unit staff photos were conspicuously displayed. CFIS reviewed the TPU staff sign-in log DRC 6011, which confirmed that rounds are being conducted in accordance with DRC policy 50-PAM-02, Incarcerated Person Communication/Weekly Rounds.

CFIS reviewed multiple restrictive housing individual record sheets (DRC 4118). These documents track each IP's essential daily functions, including meal acceptance/refusal, personal hygiene, and recreation. Each DRC 4118 was appropriately completed with dates, times, and staff initials, confirming that mandated services were provided.

Additionally, several restrictive housing daily activity logs (DRC 4117) were reviewed. DRC 4117s track service delivery, such as linen/clothing exchange, mealtimes, and barbering. CFIS found these documents to be compliant with DRC policy.

No violations of DRC policy, 55-SPC-02, Restrictive Housing Procedures, were noted or observed during inspection.

## B. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #2

**Name/Identifier:** Frazier Health Center (second floor)

**Type of Specialized Housing:** ☐ Special Management Housing (55-SPC-02) ☐ RTU (67-MNH-23)  
☐ Reception (52-RCP-01, 02, 06) ☐ Death Row (67-MNH-31, 52-RCP-02)  
☐ Limited Privilege Housing ☐ Level 1/Outside Worker ☐ Nursery  
☐ Dementia ☐ Protective Custody ☒ Other: Chronic health issues

**Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Appropriate signage/information displayed:** ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Does this specialized housing offer programming:** ☐Yes ☒No ☐N/A

**Type of unit:** ☒Open Dorm ☐Cells

**Housing unit max capacity:** 154

Are equipment and facilities in working order: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Does the housing unit inspected comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

**Additional Notes:** The second floor of the Frazier Health Center serves IPs with chronic health conditions, including those requiring dialysis, cancer care, treatment for oxygen toxicity, and support for disabilities. This floor is organized into three distinct sections: two sections each contain 60 beds, and a third section comprises 34 beds. IPs on this floor receive comprehensive care supported by around-the-clock nursing staff and a dedicated full-time dietician. Operational oversight is provided by one unit manager, one case

manager, one sergeant, and three corrections officers assigned to each shift. The dialysis unit features 32 dialysis stations divided into four sections, with each section supervised by a nurse. Currently, 86 IPs receive dialysis six days per week, with sessions lasting from two to five hours per visit. IPs also have access to a dayroom equipped with televisions, telephones, books, tables, chairs, a fish tank, and an ice machine.

No violations of DRC policy were noted or observed during inspection.

### C. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #3

**Name/Identifier:** C-Unit

**Type of Specialized Housing:** ☐ Special Management Housing (55-SPC-02) ☐ RTU (67-MNH-23)  
☐ Reception (52-RCP-01, 02, 06) ☐ Death Row (67-MNH-31, 52-RCP-02)  
☐ Limited Privilege Housing ☐ Level 1/Outside Worker ☐ Nursery  
☐ Dementia ☐ Protective Custody  
☒ Other: Therapeutic Community/Staff Dog Program

**Executive staff/supervisors conduct unannounced rounds:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Appropriate signage/information displayed:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Does this specialized housing offer programming:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Type of unit:** ☒ Open Dorm ☐ Cells

**Housing unit max capacity:** 150

**Are equipment and facilities in working order:** ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

**Does the housing unit inspected comply with DRC standards for cleanliness:** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

**Additional Notes:** C-Unit staff consisted of three corrections officers, case manager, sergeant, and a unit manager. The unit also has three behavioral health staff to oversee the Oasis Therapeutic Community (TC) program, a collaboration between PCI and the Department of Behavioral Health designed to serve IPs with identified substance abuse disorders. The dayrooms were utilized for programming, educational purposes, and leisure. The unit schedule specified the types of activities taking place in the unit.

The TC program operates as a structured therapeutic community that emphasizes pro-social behavior, personal accountability, and peer-supported growth. IPs participate in a sequence of communal activities, including daily meetings, encounter groups, educational sessions, and organized recreational programming. These activities are arranged to promote consistent engagement, self-reflection, and the development of healthy interpersonal skills.

IPs participating in the TC program enter one of two pathways. The first pathway is a short-term option that includes a four-month intensive institutional phase followed by three months of community-based services. The second pathway is a long-term institutional phase lasting between nine and twelve months. In both pathways, staff provide oversight and guidance, while IPs are primarily responsible for holding one another accountable to clearly defined behavioral and community standards.

Through this structured, peer-led environment, the TC program aims to support sustained recovery, reinforce positive behavioral changes, and prepare participants for successful reintegration into the community.

While the C-Unit was clean, a single maintenance issue concerning one inoperable toilet was identified; however, the repairs process was already in progress in accordance with DRC policy 21-CAM-12.

No violations of DRC policy were noted or observed during inspection.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM INSPECTION**

### **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)**

PREA provides for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in federal, state, and local institutions. PREA provides information, resources, recommendations, and funding to protect IPs from prison sexual assaults and rapes. PREA applies to all DRC institutions, including privately operated and juvenile correctional facilities.

As the law enforcement agency responsible for investigating criminal offenses inside correctional institutions, the Ohio State Highway Patrol tracks sexual assaults using the PREA incident system. CFIS interviewed the PREA coordinator who confirmed that PCI had one substantiated PREA case in the past 12 months. PREA signage and local rape crisis center information were appropriately posted.

In addition, PCI has PREA victim support teams made up of staff who can assist the victim with information and emotional support services.

No violations of DRC policy 79-ISA-01, Prison Rape Elimination Act, were noted or observed during inspection.

### **Staff Recruiting and Retention**

On the date of inspection, PCI had a vacancy rate of 18%, which is well above the agency average of 12.16%. Information about hiring events and job openings was posted.

### **Naloxone (Narcan) Kits**

PCI offered Narcan kits to IPs on the day of their release. Each kit contained two doses of naloxone and 10 fentanyl test strips. The kits are stored within a "Harm Reduction Vending Machine," which is located within a discrete area. PCI complied with DRC policy 10-SAF-20, Naloxone Safety and Health Procedures.

### **Administrative Duty Officer Reports (ADO)**

CFIS reviewed the ADO 50-PAM-02 reports between May 20 to 27, 2026, which were provided upon request. An ADO report is completed daily by the designated executive staff tasked with completing inspection rounds. The designated rounds cover food service, visitation, housing, recreation, and any other area designated by the warden. Upon completion of the ADO rounds, a report documenting the rounds is provided to the warden's office for review. The report includes the date and time of the rounds, areas visited, observations, concerns and recommendations. The ADO reports reviewed by CFIS were completed timely, in accordance with DRC policy.

## Security and Safety

PCI's housing units were appropriately staffed. Restrooms were clean; however, some maintenance problems involving toilets and showers were identified. Repairs were already underway according to the departmental process outlined in DRC policy 21-CAM-12. Units had essential items such as ice machines and water fountains, all in working order. Evacuation plans were posted in conspicuous areas. Cleaning products and supplies were secured appropriately. According to the sign-in logbook, staff were conducting rounds according to DRC policy 50-PAM-02.

PCI is currently replacing all stairs in Units A and B as well as the Frazier Health Center as part of one capital improvement project. PCI is undertaking a separate capital improvement project to construct new living units expected to further expand residential capacity.

No security issues or DRC policy violations were noted or observed during inspection.

## Drug Prevention and Testing

DRC has increased efforts towards contraband interdiction throughout all institutions statewide to assist in the reduction of contraband conveyance and unauthorized items brought into the institutions. Additional DRC canine teams are being formed to assist in contraband interdiction.

In addition, DRC's centralized Offender Mail Processing Center located in Youngstown receives, inspects, and scans all mail. Mail is then sent to IPs electronically via their tablets per DRC policy 75-MAL-01, Incarcerated Population Mail. PCI's drug testing results for April 2026 were as follows:

| Test Category   | Number of Tests | Results                          |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Random testing  | 105             | 6 BUP positives, 2 THC positives |
| For-cause       | 12              | 0 positive                       |
| Program testing | 0               | 0 positive                       |

During the period from April 2026 to the date of inspection, the following drug-related contraband was seized: 11 Suboxone strips, two K2 "toon," one tobacco product, two Suboxone pills, one package containing a white powdery substance, and two cell phones.

## Security Threat Groups (STG)

STG are organized groups within correctional institutions that are often linked to gang activity/organized crime and pose significant risks to the safety and security of the institution. Classifying an individual as an STG member assists the institution and DRC in proper tracking, housing, and monitoring of trends. PCI has a total of 238 STG members belonging to 36 different STG. The top six groups are: Bloods (57 members), Crips (32 members), Folks/Gangster Disciples (14 members), White Supremacist (23 members), Cincinnati White Boys (10) and Aryan Brotherhood (19 members).

## Institutional Overtime

Corrections officers worked a total of 7,489.70 overtime hours in April 2026. No violations of DRC policy 35-PAY-01, Employee Pay, Timekeeping and Overtime Issues, were reported.

## Annual Evacuation Drills

CFIS verified that PCI's health and safety coordinator conducts quarterly fire drills on all shifts in compliance with DRC policy 10-SAF-05, Fire Prevention and Safety Practices.

## Special Events/Family Engagement Events

Over the past 12 months, PCI has hosted at least five special events including but not limited to a Valentines Day compatibility game, reentry workshop, and graduation through the Creating Lasting Family Connections program. No violations of DRC policy 77-REC-01 were observed.

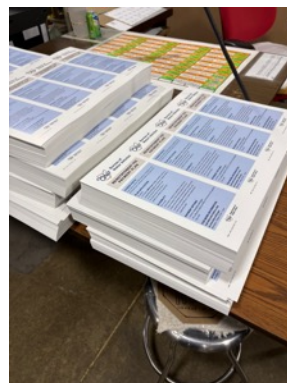
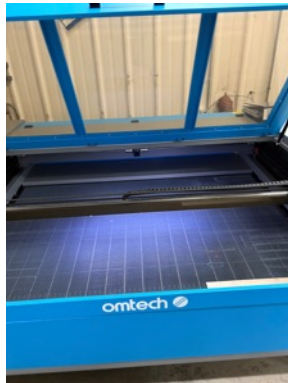
## Ohio Penal Industries (OPI)

PCI's OPI manages a dedicated print shop in collaboration with Global Shop Solutions. IPs working in the shop produce an array of materials for various state agencies, such as the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), Ohio State Highway Patrol, and DRC. Materials produced include state park maps, forms, posters, pamphlets, business cards, envelopes, and engraved items like awards and plaques.

IPs participate in diverse roles within the print shop, encompassing graphic design, engraving, sublimation, finish cutting, and bindery work. At present, 41 IPs are employed and five IPs are awaiting placement. IPs must complete an application process, undergo a conduct review, and a staff assessment prior to employment within the shop. The print shop operates Monday through Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.



*Engraving Machine*



*BMV Pamphlet*

## CONCLUSION

During inspection, PCI leadership demonstrated both expertise and approachability in their interactions with CFIS. The institution was clean and well organized, and staff conducted themselves with professionalism, reflecting a dedication to maintaining a safe and humane correctional environment.

The grievance process at PCI effectively addresses issues in a timely manner, providing clear, policy-based solutions. Additionally, the Frazier Health Center provides crucial long-term care for individuals with chronic health conditions; both the nursing and support staff demonstrated a strong commitment to the treatment and well-being of IPs. Finally, PCI's rehabilitative and educational programs are accessible to IPs and support the rehabilitation process.



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

---

**REPORT ON THE  
INSPECTION OF  
PICKAWAY  
CORRECTIONAL  
INSTITUTION**

---

**Correctional Facilities Inspection Services**

30 E. Broad St. 17th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
800-282-0515  
[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)