

REPORT ON THE  
INSPECTION OF

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# BELMONT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AND CAMP

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INSPECTION DATE: FEB. 12, 2026



**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



# Belmont Correctional Institution and Camp

Inspection Date: February 12, 2026

**Acronym:** BECI  
**Address:** 68518 Bannock Rd. St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950  
**Warden/Superintendent:** Shelbie Smith  
**CFIS Team Members Present:** J. Wesson / D. Drummond / B. Forrest / D. Thompson

## FACILITY INFORMATION

**Date Institution Opened:** 1995

**Population Type:**  Male  Female

**Security Level Type:**  Minimum  
 Medium  
 Special Management  
 Restrictive Housing  
 Death Row  
 Juvenile

**Total Acres:** 158  
**Total Buildings On-Site:** 17

**Total Custody Staff:** 270  
**Total Service Area Staff:** 169  
**Total Staff:** 439

**Total Volunteers:** 88

## INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION

**Current Count:** 2487  
**Total Available Capacity:** 2713  
**Incarcerated Person Age Range:** 18 - 85  
**Incarcerated Person Average Age:** 42.40

BECI is an open-dormitory style facility, divided into units. Each unit has a capacity of 244 incarcerated adults. In addition, BECI has a camp for Level 1 incarcerated adults. A correctional camp is a building or housing unit that houses low-security level incarcerated individuals. These individuals are heavily vetted based on their offenses and conduct since being incarcerated. Incarcerated persons (IPs) approved to work in a camp are often approved to work outside of the confines of the institution. There were approximately 488 IPs housed at the camp on the day of the CFIS inspection.

## RECENT INTERNAL MANAGEMENT AUDIT

BECI's most recent Internal Management Audit (IMA) was conducted on May 20-22, 2025. The IMA is an annual audit conducted by an independent auditor who reviews a facility's compliance with the American Correctional Association's (ACA) 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Standards and the 2025 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 BECI's rates of compliance for the previous three years:

IMA Audit Scores	2025	2024	2023
ACA Mandatory	100%	100%	100%
ACA Non-Mandatory	99.8%	99.5%	99.8%
Ohio Standards	90.5%	92.2%	97%

BECI External Inspection Results	Date of Inspection	Violations	Violations Corrected
State Fire Marshall	10/15/2024	41	41
Health Department	10/2/25 - 2/25/26	5	5
Annual DRC Facility Safety and Sanitation Inspection	5/21/25	0	0

## OVERVIEW OF CFIS INSPECTION

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, R.C. 109.39 empowers CFIS to inspect any other areas that it deems appropriate. While at BECI, the CFIS team also inspected the following:

- 1) Recreation
- 2) Recovery services
- 3) Medical
- 4) Library/law library (Ohio Means Jobs)
- 5) Transitional programming unit (TPU)
- 6) Mental health
- 7) Chapel (religious services)
- 8) Visitation area
- 9) General population unit
- 10) Specialized housing unit (normalcy and sex offender programming unit)
- 11) Ohio Penal Industries (OPI)

In advance of arrival, CFIS inspectors requested that staff produce copies of Administrative Duty Officer (ADO) (50-PAM-02) reports from the past seven days, the most recent 30 days of grievances, and the following:

- 1) Current vacancy rates (total staff, custody/non-custody overtime report)
- 2) Current facility incarcerated population count (racial breakdown, average age)
- 3) Current facility security threat group numbers
- 4) Facility drug testing (previous quarter)
- 5) Facility educational program numbers (program enrollment/completion)
- 6) Facility engagement events (previous year/current)
- 7) Workforce development program/job list
- 8) Facility Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) reports (past year/current, total of
- 9) completed investigations)
- 10) Approved volunteers (total)

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

The DRC inmate 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 inmate complaints related to institutional life which directly and personally affect the IP, 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 description(s) 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 in writing within seven calendar days of receipt of the informal complaint, though the inspector may grant an additional four calendar days for response. The inspector of institutional services (IIS) is required to ensure that the 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 inmate'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 inmate does not meet policy requirements—such as failing to submit an ICR within 14 calendar days of the event or failing to include details, such as dates, times, locations, personnel descriptions, and relevant actions, the inspector will notify the IP that the grievance is denied.

**Step Two: Filing a notification of grievance:**

If the inmate is dissatisfied with the informal complaint response, or the informal complaint process has been waived, the inmate 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 timeframe 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 inmate. If there is no disposition 28 days after 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: Filing an appeal of 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 inmate. The chief inspector/designee's decision on the appeal is final.

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

**Are facility 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, paper grievance forms (DYS):**    Yes No N/A

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

**Additional Notes:** While inspecting Belmont Correctional Institution, CFIS focused on ensuring that the institution is systematically logging and tracking grievances in DRC's electronic grievance system, ViaPath, and that staff are responding to grievances within policy guidelines. CFIS reviewed 13 grievances from Jan. 12 to Feb. 12, 2026. Of the 13 grievances filed, one was referred to investigation status to be conducted by the Institutional Inspector and/or the designee. CFIS did not observe any indication of retaliation against IPs for filing grievances. During the review of grievances and ICRs, CFIS observed thorough responses from staff, which referenced DRC policies or administrative rules, when appropriate.

Complaints were logged and tracked electronically through the ViaPath system and were accessible on IPs' tablets. The BECI grievance process is operating in accordance with administrative rule (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 60-FSM-06, Safety and Health Protection for Staff and Incarcerated Individuals Assigned to Food Service.

Executive staff/supervisors conduct 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 DYS policy for cleanliness:  Yes  No  N/A

Dishwasher water temperature meets DYS 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 the inspection, CFIS sampled a lunch meal that included sloppy joe, baked potato, two slices of bread, salad with Italian dressing, banana, and a brownie with powdered sugar. The meal was appropriate in portion size and met policy standards for taste, appearance, and temperature.

The meal preparation and food service area were clean and organized. Aramark workers (non-IP contract workers) were appropriately dressed in protective clothing (hair and beard nets, rubber gloves). Uniforms were neat and clean.

Food was properly labeled and dated. The dish room was clean and dish cleaning water temperatures complied with DRC 60-FSM-02. CFIS verified completion of sanitation and hygiene training for food service and incarcerated staff to ensure compliance with 60-FSM-06. ServSafe certification was also verified. The food service area used DRC-approved cleaning chemicals and disinfectants.

The back dock area was clean and free of odor. The area surrounding the trash compactor was free of debris. No indication of rodents or pests was observed in the food service area or on the back dock. CFIS spoke with several Aramark staff in the food services area, and none reported any concerns which would constitute a violation of DRC policy. The food service manager did not report any issues or concerns. There were no violations of DRC policy noted or observed during the inspection.

**In2Work Program**

DRC and Aramark have created a program in which incarcerated individuals can be actively employed by Aramark and operate as food service managers. Prior to obtaining a position, the incarcerated individual must receive the appropriate certifications and maintain them while participating. The certifications are available to the IP upon release. The In2Work program is designed to teach skills and provide certifications needed for careers in culinary arts. During the inspection, participants were actively engaged in preparing meals.

**EDUCATION & REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS (57-EDU-01, 02)**

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) offers educational programs designed to meet the needs of incarcerated people throughout DRC, including BECI. The programs include adult education courses, vocational training, and technical training, all of which incorporate technology into the programming. Collectively, the programs are designed to enhance the incarcerated population’s employability upon release.

**A. EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Does the facility 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: Food Production/Construction Tech. 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 comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

**B. REHABILITATIVE/RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS**

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

Rehabilitative/re-entry programs offered:

Résumé writing in the library, sex offender treatment program within unit, Ohio Penal Industries, workforce development program, Ohio Means Jobs, cognitive behavioral therapy, Thinking for a Change.

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

Does the re-entry department comply with DRC standards for cleanliness: Yes No N/A

**Additional Notes:** Within the religious services department, there were numerous classrooms where IPs were participating in intensive outpatient programs led by recovery services staff (72-REG-01, Institutional Religious Services).

On the date of the inspection, BECI's academic and rehabilitative programs included:

- 1) Adult basic education (ABLE)
- 2) Ashland University (certificates and degrees)
- 3) Construction technology (career tech)
- 4) Community service programs
- 5) Janitor (apprenticeship)
- 6) Landscape management technology (apprenticeship)
- 7) Material coordinator (apprenticeship)
- 8) Animal trainer (apprenticeship)
- 9) Plumbing (career tech)
- 10) Welding (career tech)
- 11) Horticulture (career tech)
- 12) Food production management services (career tech)
- 13) Ohio Penal Industries (OPI)

CFIS Inspectors focused on BECI's literacy and GED programs, examined whether the offered vocational training aligns with the current job market, reviewed post-secondary education opportunities and the instructors' qualifications, and considered whether the educational material and technology was up to date. CFIS also reviewed enrollment and attendance tracking, as well as accommodations available for IPs with learning disabilities. No issues were observed.

BECI's OPI offers workforce development training. This includes toilet paper manufacturing and distribution, a program that supplies toilet paper to all state facilities, Ohio Department of Natural Resources sites, and rest areas throughout the state. Daily production yields up to 14,000 pounds of toilet paper. OPI also offers forklift certification training, as well as training and certification of OSHA 10 (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

### **Workforce Initiative Overview**

**Telling Industries** (*Cambridge, Ohio*): BECI and the Office of Enterprise Development have partnered with Telling Industries to allow IPs to work at Telling while incarcerated. IPs are screened for suitability and approval to work outside the secure facility. This program is aimed at providing real-life work experience and wages, which are deposited into savings accounts and available upon release.

CFIS spoke to numerous incarcerated adults in the education area, and no one reported any issues that would constitute a violation of DRC policy 57-EDU-01, 02. The education department was fully staffed with appropriate personnel.

## **MEDICAL (68-MED-01)**

### **A. MEDICAL SERVICES**

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

**Services offered:** Medical and dental services, medication distribution, preventative care to those with prolonged medical issues, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program (see below).

- 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, watches, dry cells, or special supervision IPs in this area: Yes No N/A

**Additional Notes:** CFIS toured and inspected the medical department and spoke to staff. IPs were receiving medical treatment during the inspection, and the area was extremely clean. BECI also conducts a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program, which is a partnership between DRC and the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health, providing a continuum of care for incarcerated adults with opiate use disorders. BECI currently has 20 incarcerated adults in the program. No policy violations were observed or noted during the CFIS 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 leagues, weight-lifting (new equipment), arts and crafts, music room with music production capabilities/outdoor recreation area, softball field.
- 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 area was clean and organized. It appeared to prioritize the incarcerated population's physical health and was well-maintained. IPs were actively engaged in physical activities. No maintenance issues were observed or reported, as toilets, water fountains, and sinks were in working condition. No violations of DRC 77-REC-01, Recreation and Leisure Time Activities, were observed or reported.

## 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:** BECI has a newly renovated library and law library. The area was clean and organized. IPs can access Ohio Means Jobs in the library, which provides specialized employment services, including re-entry résumé support. The librarian collaborates with the local library to fulfill requests for available books. No violations of DRC 58-LIB-01, Comprehensive Library Services, were observed or reported.

## VISITATION (76-VIS-01)

### A. VISITATION

**Visitation hours:** Wednesday-Saturday from 7:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 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 posted:**  Yes  No  N/A

**Does the visitation area meet DRC policy standards for cleanliness:**  Yes  No  N/A

**Additional Notes:** On the day of the inspection, BECI's visitation area was well-kept. The area appeared to allow IPs and their families an opportunity to engage in a setting designed to encourage positive interaction among family members, especially children. Arcade games and children's books were available for family engagement during visitation. There were vending machines for visitors to purchase snacks and drinks, as well as the option to order food from Aramark. No violations of DRC 76-VIS-01, Incarcerated Person Visitation, were observed or reported.

## GENERALIZED HOUSING

### A. GENERAL POPULATION HOUSING #1

**Name/Identifier:** 1-House

**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

**Total number housed:** 235

**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:** This unit was staffed by two correctional officers, a case manager, a sergeant, and a unit manager. A few minor maintenance issues were discovered, but the process for repairing the issues was being followed per DRC policy (21-CAM-12, Preventative Maintenance and General Work Orders).

## SPECIALIZED HOUSING

### A. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #1

Name/Identifier: 5-House

Type of Specialized Housing:  Restrictive 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: Normalcy unit

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

Appropriate signage/information displayed:  Yes  No  N/A

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

Type of unit:  Open Dorm  Cells

Total number housed: 240

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

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

**Additional Notes:** Upon arrival at the normalcy unit, CFIS was received by two IP facilitators and resident assistants, who serve as mentors to fellow residents. Admission to the unit requires IPs to apply; eligibility is contingent upon having no conduct reports within the preceding six months. Applications undergo review by both the IP facilitators and unit staff. Admitted IPs are required to participate in the jobs program, which provides training for roles such as maintenance workers, librarians, tutors and administrative personnel. The IP facilitators deliver instructional programs, including "How to Be a Responsible Dad" and "Life Skills," and they further develop public speaking skills by interacting with unit visitors. Receipt of any conduct report results in removal from the program. All participants must hold a position within the unit and be within three years of their anticipated release date. Currently, 75% of IPs are involved in re-entry programming.

The unit is fully carpeted and furnished with new items, including tables and chairs in the day room, and a living area equipped with a sofa, chairs and a large screen television. Photographs of unit staff, PREA posters, and other pertinent signage were displayed. No violations of DRC policy were identified or observed during the inspection.

### B. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #2

Name/Identifier: 2-House

Type of Specialized Housing:  Restrictive 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: Sex offender program housing unit

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

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

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

Type of unit: Open Dorm Cells

Total number housed: 110

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

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

**Additional Notes:** The sex offender unit focuses on providing direct programming to IPs convicted of sex offenses. Sex offender services provide a system of evidence-based sex-offender-specific assessments and programming to reduce the risk of recidivism. At reception, the individual's eligibility for the unit's programming is assessed; in certain instances, participation may be required by court order or mandated by the parole board as a condition for parole consideration. Once admitted, IPs must commit to spending one year in the 240-hour program.

### C. SPECIALIZED HOUSING #3

Name/Identifier: Transitional Program Unit (TPU)

Type of Specialized Housing: Restrictive 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: Special management housing

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

Appropriate signage/information displayed: Yes No N/A

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

Type of unit: Open Dorm Cells

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

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

**Additional Notes:** TPU, a restrictive housing unit, was clean and orderly. Incarcerated adults had access to their tablets. A peer-support team (range walkers) was present and actively engaged. Peer supporters are IPs who have received training from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health to assist other IPs who may be in crisis. Peer supporters use their training and shared experiences with mental health and/or substance use issues to assist other IPs. Support occurs within the housing unit, outside the clinical setting, and is meant to promote sustained recovery. Peer supporters also can become certified peer supporters prior to release, enhancing employability.

CFIS inspectors reviewed the TPU's staff sign-in log DRC 6011, which indicated that rounds were being conducted by staff according to DRC policy 50-PAM-02.

CFIS reviewed multiple TPU DRC 4118 reports, which document each IP's essential daily functions, including acceptance or refusal of meals, personal hygiene, and recreation activities. Each DRC 4118 is signed or initialed by the institutional staff as confirmation that these necessities have been provided to each

incarcerated individual. All reviewed DRC 4118s were completed appropriately, including dates, times, and staff initials to document the care provided.

The TPU area was appropriately staffed. None of the incarcerated people interviewed reported any issues or concerns that would constitute a violation of DRC policy. The observed cells were clean, with no maintenance concerns; toilets and sinks were in good working order. Showers were inside the cells. Appropriate and approved DRC cleaning chemicals and supplies were secured. Religious and reading materials were available to the incarcerated individuals. Indoor and outdoor recreation areas were available for the IPs in the TPU. No violations of DRC policy were observed.

## **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. It provides information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect IPs from prison sexual assaults and rapes. PREA applies to all ODRC 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 staff interviewed the BECI PREA coordinator, who confirmed that BECI has not had any substantiated PREA cases in the past 12 months. PREA signage and local rape crisis center information was appropriately posted.

In addition, ODRC (BECI) have PREA victim support teams, made up of staff who can assist the victim with information and emotional support services. No violations of ODRC policy 79-ISA-01, Prison Rape Elimination Act, were observed.

### **Staff Recruiting and Retention**

On the date of the inspection, BECI had a vacancy rate of 4.29%, which is well below the agency average of 10.4%. Information about hiring events and job openings was posted.

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

BECI 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" in a discrete area. BECI complied with DRC 10-SAF-20, Naloxone Safety and Health Procedure.

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

CFIS reviewed the ADO (50-PAM-02) reports from the week prior to the inspection, 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 unit, recreation area, 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. After reviewing DRC 6011 (DRC sign-in logbook), staff appear to be conducting rounds according to policy, and the ADO reports reviewed were completed timely (50-PAM-02).

## **Security and Safety**

BECI housing units were staffed by two correctional officers, a case manager, a sergeant, and a unit manager. A strong correctional officer presence was observed. Units were clean and organized. Restrooms were clean with some identified maintenance issues (one toilet, one shower, and one urinal were not operable). BECI staff had already initiated the repair process for those issues. All other showers, sinks, and toilets were in good working conditions.

Units had essential items such as washer and dryer, ice machines, and water fountains. All were in working order. No other maintenance issues were reported or observed. Fire evacuation plans were posted in conspicuous areas. Unit team pictures were posted. Cleaning products and supplies were secured appropriately. There were no security issues or DRC policy violations noted or observed during the inspection.

## **Drug Prevention and Testing**

DRC has increased efforts toward contraband interdiction statewide to assist in the reduction of contraband conveyance and unauthorized items brought into facilities. Additionally, DRC canine teams are being formed to assist in contraband interdiction. In addition, DRC's centralized mail processing center (OMPC) in Youngstown receives, inspects, and scans all mail. Mail is then sent to the IPs electronically via their tablets (75-MAL-01, Incarcerated Population Mail).

For the month of January 2026, BECI program drug testing revealed two positive results for suboxone out of 96 IPs tested, with a 2.08% positivity rate. Random drug test results revealed one positive result for suboxone out of 126 IPs tested, with a 0.79% positivity rate. For-cause drug test results of 12 IPs did not yield any positive results.

From January 2026 to present, the following drug-related contraband was seized: 179 samples of synthetic drugs, 39 samples of suboxone, one piece of cocaine-laced paper, as well as fentanyl-laced paper and tobacco. BECI complied with DRC 70-RCV-03, Drug Testing of Incarcerated Persons.

## **Security Threat Groups (STG)**

Security Threat Groups (STG) are organized groups within correctional facilities that are often linked to gang activity/organized crime and pose significant risks to the safety and security of the facility. Classifying an individual as an STG assists the facility and DRC in proper tracking, housing, and monitoring of trends.

BECI has identified 225 STG members belonging to 42 different STG groups. The top five groups are: Bloods (32 members), Crips (29 members), Folks/Gangster Disciples (32 members), Heartless Felons (16 members), and White Supremacist (15 members).

## **Institutional Overtime**

Corrections officers worked a total of 1,717.22 overtime hours in January 2026. No violations of DRC policy 35-PAY-01, Employee Pay, Timekeeping and Overtime Issues, were reported.

## **Annual Evacuation Drills**

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

## **Special Events/Family Engagement Events**

Over the past 12 months, Belmont Correctional Institution has hosted at least 15 special events including but not limited to, graduations, Christmas events, fatherhood events, and a yearly volunteer banquet. Events were conducted in compliance with DRC policy 77-REC-01, Recreation and Leisure Time Activities.

## Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT partners with DRC, including BECI to utilize low-security, minimum-risk incarcerated adults for roadside litter pickup.

## CONCLUSION

BECI appears to use the grievance process to address issues promptly and effectively. During the inspection, leadership was knowledgeable, accessible, and seemed instrumental in cultivating a positive environment. The camp maintained high standards of cleanliness and organization. BECI staff actively engaged with incarcerated adults, and modern exercise equipment contributed positively to recreational opportunities. On the day of the inspection, the facility operated efficiently. Staff were proud and professional.

Staff displayed comprehensive understanding of correctional practices and actively promoted constructive behavior among incarcerated individuals. Programs were designed to support successful re-entry. No violations of DRC policy were observed or reported during the inspection.



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**REPORT ON THE  
INSPECTION OF  
BELMONT  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
AND CAMP**

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**Correctional Facilities Inspection Services**

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