

My name is Calvin, and I am currently incarcerated at Corrigan Correctional Center. I am submitting this testimony to share my experiences and challenges I've faced while incarcerated at this facility, as well as perspective from fellow inmates. Many of the issues described below have a direct impact on the health, safety, and rehabilitation of us all.

I hope that by bringing attention to these issues, these matters will be prioritized for review, and result in timely and meaningful improvements.

One of my biggest frustrations is with the reliability of the communication system. My and other inmate's, phone and video calls are frequently interrupted or cut short due to Wi-Fi and connectivity issues. When calls are disconnected, we lose valuable time with our loved ones and are not given the opportunity to recover the lost time. We have 6 calls a day, and if 2 of those calls drop due to poor connectivity, we do not get those calls or lost minutes back. Maintaining communication with family, friends and loved ones is a crucial part of our support system, well being and mental health.

Another frustration that I have is the lack of meaningful educational, vocational, and personal development programs available at Corrigan Correctional Center. There are no opportunities for inmates here to participate in programs that promote rehabilitation, personal growth, or prepare us for successful reentry into society. Rehabilitation should be a central goal of incarceration, but without access to these resources, many of us are left without opportunities for personal and educational growth. Where other facilities have programs, we have none.

Another level to this is the limited opportunity to demonstrate rehabilitation. With so few educational, vocational, and personal development programs available at Corrigan Correctional Center, inmates such as myself have fewer opportunities to build a record of personal growth and accountability. This becomes especially discouraging when seeking sentence modification or early release. From my perspective as well as other inmates, it is unclear what specific criteria are used by the Board of Pardons and Paroles when evaluating an inmate's eligibility for early release or sentence modification. At times, the process appears inconsistent, or even nonexistent, making it difficult to understand what steps should be taken to improve chances for consideration. If rehabilitative programming is considered an important factor in these decisions, then those opportunities should be made reasonably available. If other criteria are used, they should be clearly communicated so that we understand the expectations and have a fair opportunity to work toward them.

Another ongoing issue at this specific facility is the frequent lockdowns that occur. These lockdowns can last for extended periods and significantly limit access to recreation, medical appointments, and other daily activities. While I understand that safety and security are important, frequent lockdowns, some being caused by staff shortages, have a substantial impact on our daily lives and well-being.

Access to medical care is another serious issue. In my experience and based on what I've witnessed, inmates often face lengthy delays in receiving necessary medical treatment. It can take months, and in some cases years, for inmates to receive specialist appointments or medically necessary procedures. These delays often lead to worsening medical and health conditions.

I am also concerned about the quality of the food served at the facility. The meals are often poor in quality, and inedible. Improvements need to be made to ensure that we receive meals that are safe, not stale or on the verge of going bad, and adequate for nutritional health.

I ask the Corrections Advisory Committee to review these concerns and evaluate conditions at Corrigan Correctional Center, and I hope the Committee will work with the Department of Correction to improve the issues explained above.

Thank you,
Calvin