Prisons for Profit: A Look at Private Prisons in Ohio

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PRISONS FOR PROFIT
18 Months in the Life of the Nation’s First Prison Sold for Profit

Should someone make a profit from people being kept in prison?


18 States Operating at More than 100% capacity:
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New York
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Washington

Financial Costs

Key Findings
- $1.27 billion DCF prison budget
- $1.32 billion Total state cost of prisons
- $25.814 Average annual cost per inmate

Source: Vera Institute of Justice
PRIVATE PRISONS

• What is a private prison?
  • A prison that is
    • owned and/or
    • operated
    • by a private company

In 2011, the ACLU of Ohio released a report highlighting problems with private prisons

• Costs & Savings
  • Little to no actual savings

• Medical Care
  • One word – inadequate!

• Safety
  • 50% more prisoner assaults, including prisoner on staff

Problems with Private Prisons

• Staff
  • Low wage/benefits, non-union
    • CCA officers – Avg. salary – $32,000
    • CEO salary – $882,807 plus $2.5 million in other compensation.
  • 4x more turnover

• Transparency
  • Claim they are not subject to public records laws

Problems with Private Prisons

• Community Costs
  • Undermines sentencing reform
  • More prisoners = more $$$

What’s happened since our report was released?

Ohio sold Lake Erie Correctional Institution to Corrections Corporation of America (CCA).

• CCA took over on January 01, 2012
Who is CCA?
• Leading private prison operator
• Located in 19 states & D.C.
• Publicly traded company
  • Remember, it’s all about profit $$$
• Revenues over $1.6 billion
• Sued by the IRS multiple times

The Sale
• CCA paid $72.7 million
• Ohio agreed to pay
  • $44.25 per person per day
  AND
  • Pay at a 90% capacity rate

Crisis in Conneaut: A Timeline
Assaults, Drug & Gang activity
• From 2010-2012:
  • Inmate-on-inmate
  • Increased 180%
  • Inmate-on-staff
  • Increased 300%
• Total disturbances more than doubled

Crisis in Conneaut, continued
• Sanitation
  • Unsanitary food conditions
  • Black mold/ standing water
  • No access to running water
  • Defecating in bags
  • Triple bunking in segregation
• Medical understaffing
  • Overdoses/ death

Where are we now?
• Ohio’s contract with CCA expires on June 30, 2032.
• Many states are choosing to terminate their contracts with CCA –
  • Idaho
  • Kentucky
  • Mississippi
  • Texas
Northeast Ohio Correctional Center
- Federal Facility
- Youngstown, Ohio
- History of problems
- BOP did not renew contract with CCA.

Another Prison For Profit?
- North Central Correctional Institution
  - Marion, Ohio
- Privately managed since 2011
  - Management & Training Corporation
- OGA passed the sale of this facility in June 2015.

Privatizing Prison Services
- 2013 – Aramark contracted to provide food for Ohio prisons
- 2014 – Big problems
  - Maggots (found 9 times)
  - Staff (135 staff fired)
  - Fines ($272,000)

Food Services
- 2015: Contract up for renewal
  - Aramark bid – $1.275/meal
  - OCSEA bid – $1.216/meal
  - Aramark won - $130m
- 2016 – CIIC Report

Discussion:
- What are your thoughts on what you heard today?
- Any questions?
How Can You Get Involved?

- Visit acluohio.org/advocacy
- Take Action Now
- Sign Up For E-News

- Become a member!
  - Visit acluohio.org/membership

For More Information:
- Visit acluohio.org
- Email: contact@acluohio.org