18 Months in the Life of the Lake Erie Correctional Institution, The Nation’s First Prison Sold to a For-Profit Company

1-1-2011
Lake Erie Correctional Institutions (LaECI) becomes the first state-owned prison in the nation to be sold to a private company, Correct Craft Company of America (CCA). It sells for $723.5 million instead of the predicted $200 million. 1

10-12-2011
The city of Conneaut learns investigation of felony-level crimes that take place in LaECI will transfer from the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) to local law enforcement. 2

10-20-2011
Conneaut is told that the job of investigating crimes in LaECI will be transferred to the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department, reliving the city of the responsibility. 3

12-29-2011
The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) discloses that the job of handling felony-level crimes in LaECI will be transferred back to (OSHP). 4

12-31-2011
CCA begins ownership of LaECI. 5

1-4-2012
The Ohio Attorney General opines use of OSHP troopers, again having Conneaut to investigate felony-level crimes at LaECI. 6

4-6-2012
Legislation is sent to Governor Kasich to formally establish OSHP’s role in investigating felony-level crimes at LaECI. 7

4-16-2012
Less than four months after CCA assumes control of LaECI, the prison is almost at capacity with 37,791 inmates. 8

4-17-2012
Prisoners who have committed murder or aggravated murder are reportedly being assigned to warehousing facilities due to overcrowding at the prison, resulting in a security breach. 9

4-2-2012
An ODRC monitor conducts a walk-through of food service areas at LaECI and finds sanitary conditions. 10

7-23-2012
CCA issues a statement regarding a “minor incident caused by one of the inmates” at LaECI. The inmate received six cuts on his hands and suffered minor injuries. No staff injuries were reported. 11

8-4-2012
An ODRC monitor conducts a walk-through of segregation at LaECI and发现s inmates using toilet for beds and other areas and no access to running water. Inmates are also heard locked in recreation areas. 12

8-18-2012
An audit of LaECI is performed, with over 47 instances of noncompliance found. These violations include inmates using toilet as a bed, improper medical care, blocked cell doors, lack of officers administering prescription medications, and lack of sanitation of food service areas. 13

11-16-2012
No inspection of LaECI finds improvement at the facility, with 27 of the 47 security, health, and safety issues from the earlier audit uncorrected. 14

11-27-2012
An inmate dies of a suspected drug overdose. 15

1-11-2013 and 1-15-2013
A Conneaut city council member asks state officials to help relieve the Conneaut Police Department of post incision control at LaECI due to the city’s tight budget. The requests prompt conversations about the dramatic increase in attempts to smuggle contraband into LaECI, mostly through boys. Inmates reportedly use toilet as a bed, inmate cells overflow, and the city must pay large bills to CCA. Taxpayers, besides CCA, purchased the prison, for $770 million dollars during the previous 11-plus years combined. 16

1-22-2013
An inside inspection of LaECI by the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC) finds “multiple deficiencies” in the way CCA is handling the prison, as reported by State Rep. John Patterson. 17

1-29-2013
LaECI goes on lockdown after fights break out among about 200 inmates. 18

2-26-2013
LaECI is accredited by the American Correctional Association. 19

2-4-2013
Within the past year, CCA has been ducked near $50 million in penalties related to LaECI. 20

2-22-2013
ODRC releases its final report on the January 22 inspection of LaECI. The report highlights a 300% increase in inmate-on-staff violence and a 187.5% increase in inmate-on-inmate violence from 2010 to 2012. 21

2-28-2013
The facility is rated “no need for improvement” in many of the major ASCI metrics categories. 22