

# **LOVED ONES COALITION**

## **Documenting Systemic Concerns Across the Federal Bureau of Prisons**

**July 27, 2026**

Loved Ones Coalition respectfully submits this Weekly Oversight Report based on reporting, documentation, correspondence, and firsthand accounts received from incarcerated individuals and their loved ones across the Federal Bureau of Prisons during this reporting period.

This week's reporting reflects a recurring pattern of operational fragility across essential institutional services. Power outages, failed climate-control systems, interruptions to running water and telephone access, delayed medical and dental care, disrupted programming, mail backlogs, and inconsistent food service practices demonstrate how the failure of one institutional system can quickly affect health, sanitation, communication, rehabilitation, and overall conditions of confinement.

Across several institutions, the central concern is not simply that equipment malfunctioned or services were temporarily interrupted. The broader concern is whether institutions have adequate preventative maintenance, emergency response procedures, staffing coverage, and contingency plans to maintain essential operations when predictable failures occur. When no effective alternative is available, incarcerated individuals may be left without reasonable access to cooling, showers, family communication, medical treatment, programming, or other basic services for prolonged periods.

This reporting period also raises questions regarding the relationship between institutional policy and the Bureau's stated rehabilitative goals. At FCI Aliceville, a children's visitation area reportedly remains available to children while incarcerated mothers are prohibited from entering the space and engaging in supervised play with them. At FCC Yazoo City Low, the reported absence of a single program instructor has allegedly prevented participants from completing programming. At FPC Sheridan, incarcerated individuals and their families appreciated that a leadership group believed to be Region took the time to visit the camp. Their presence was viewed as a positive step, particularly because incarcerated individuals at camps often feel overlooked during institutional visits. However, according to the reporting received, no inmate recall was conducted, leaving incarcerated individuals without an opportunity to speak directly with visiting leadership about their concerns.

These reports collectively demonstrate that meaningful institutional oversight requires more than identifying individual deficiencies. It requires examining whether essential systems are reliable,

whether contingency plans protect incarcerated individuals during disruptions, and whether leadership receives direct information from the people most affected by institutional conditions.

Loved Ones Coalition also recognizes positive developments reported during this reporting period. Families at FCI Talladega reported appreciation for the addition of fresh fruit to the institution's menu, and incarcerated individuals and their families at FPC Sheridan expressed appreciation that leadership believed to be Region took the time to visit the camp. Recognizing progress alongside areas requiring improvement is an important part of meaningful oversight and encourages continued efforts to strengthen institutional operations.

As always, we extend our sincere gratitude to the incarcerated individuals and family members who continue to document conditions and trust us with their experiences. Their reporting allows recurring concerns to be evaluated not merely as isolated incidents, but as indicators of broader operational patterns requiring review, accountability, and sustained institutional improvement

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## **NORTHEAST REGION**

# **FCI SCHUYLKILL**

## **Food Service Operations, Nutritional Variety, and Institutional Food Service Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding food service operations and the variety of meals served at FCI Schuylkill.

According to the reporting received, incarcerated individuals report that chicken is being served with unusual frequency, allegedly appearing as both the lunch and dinner entrée on most days. Reporting indicates chicken has reportedly been served for approximately 10 out of the last 14 days, raising concerns regarding menu variety and nutritional diversity.

While the Bureau of Prisons utilizes standardized national menus, the reporting received raises questions regarding local menu implementation, meal planning, and whether incarcerated individuals are receiving adequate variety consistent with Bureau food service standards.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCI Schuylkill raises broader questions regarding food service operations, menu planning, nutritional variety, and overall institutional food service practices.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area            | Description                                                                                              | Potential Concern Area    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Food Service Operations | Reporting alleges the same entrée is served with unusual frequency during lunch and dinner meal periods. | Food Service Operations   |
| Nutritional Variety     | Reports raise concerns regarding limited menu variety over an extended period.                           | Nutrition & Wellness      |
| Meal Planning           | Reporting raises questions regarding implementation of institutional menus and meal rotation practices.  | Institutional Operations  |
| Quality of Life         | Repetitive meal offerings may affect morale and overall quality of confinement.                          | Conditions of Confinement |

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## 3. Direct Testimony

*“We are mostly getting chicken to eat every day, for both lunch and dinner—at least 10 out of 14 days.”*

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## 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCI Schuylkill raises concerns extending beyond dissatisfaction with individual meals and instead presents broader questions regarding institutional food service practices and menu implementation.

While meal preferences naturally vary among individuals, reports alleging prolonged repetition of the same entrée raise questions regarding nutritional variety, menu rotation, and adherence to established food service standards. Consistent access to balanced and varied meals is an important component of institutional operations and overall quality of life.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding food service planning, menu diversity, nutritional adequacy, and institutional oversight of meal service at FCI Schuylkill.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. Does FCI Schuylkill utilize the Bureau of Prisons' national menu, or has the institution implemented any local menu modifications during the current reporting period?
  2. Have operational issues, staffing shortages, or supply chain limitations affected menu rotation or meal planning?
  3. How does the institution ensure incarcerated individuals receive adequate nutritional variety when recurring menu substitutions occur?
  4. Has institution leadership received or reviewed concerns regarding repetitive meal offerings?
  5. What measures, if any, are being implemented to ensure consistent menu variety while maintaining compliance with Bureau food service standards?
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## **MID-ATLANTIC REGION**

# **FCI HAZELTON**

## **Communication Access, Climate Control, Institutional Operations, and Conditions of Confinement Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding communication access, climate control, and institutional operations at FCI Hazelton.

According to the reporting received, telephone service has reportedly been unavailable in several housing units for approximately four days, limiting incarcerated individuals' ability to communicate with their loved ones. Additional reporting indicates the institution's air conditioning system has reportedly been inoperable for approximately three days during a period of elevated summer temperatures.

Supporting documentation submitted to Loved Ones Coalition includes correspondence from an incarcerated individual describing excessive indoor heat, stating they awoke drenched in sweat after sleeping and continued experiencing high temperatures throughout the day. Reporting also indicates staff advised that repairs to the telephone system were pending the arrival of a replacement part.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCI Hazelton raises broader questions regarding infrastructure reliability, continuity of communication services, climate control, and institutional operations during equipment failures.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area                 | Description                                                                                                                           | Potential Concern Area  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Telephone Access             | Reporting alleges telephone service has been unavailable in several housing units for approximately four days.                        | Communication Access    |
| Climate Control              | Reports allege the institution's air conditioning system has been inoperable for approximately three days during summer temperatures. | Environmental Health    |
| Institutional Infrastructure | Reporting raises concerns regarding equipment                                                                                         | Facility Infrastructure |

|                           |                                                                                                                  |                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                           | failures affecting routine institutional operations.                                                             |                           |
| Conditions of Confinement | Prolonged heat and interrupted communication may affect the daily living conditions of incarcerated individuals. | Conditions of Confinement |

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“Phones haven’t worked in several units for 4 days—also no AC in Hazelton FCI for the past 3 days.”*

*“The phone situation may be fixed tomorrow waiting on a part... it is so hot in here the AC is out now also... I showered, I was soaked with sweat.”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCI Hazelton raises concerns extending beyond temporary equipment malfunctions and instead presents broader questions regarding institutional infrastructure, continuity of operations, and conditions of confinement.

Reliable telephone access serves as an important means of maintaining family relationships and supporting successful reentry. Reports of multi-day telephone outages affecting multiple housing units raise questions regarding the institution’s ability to maintain consistent communication services during equipment failures.

Similarly, reports of prolonged air conditioning outages during periods of elevated temperatures raise questions regarding environmental conditions within the institution and the effectiveness of contingency measures designed to protect the health and well-being of incarcerated individuals. While maintenance issues can occur, extended disruptions to essential building systems may significantly affect daily living conditions.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding preventative maintenance, infrastructure reliability, communication access, climate control, and institutional preparedness to respond to equipment failures.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. What circumstances led to the reported telephone outage affecting multiple housing units at FCI Hazelton?
  2. When was the telephone system taken out of service, and what repairs have been completed or are currently underway?
  3. What circumstances caused the reported air conditioning outage, and what corrective actions have been taken to restore climate control?
  4. What temporary measures were implemented to mitigate excessive indoor temperatures while repairs were pending?
  5. Were alternative communication opportunities provided to incarcerated individuals while telephone service was unavailable?
  6. What preventative maintenance measures are being implemented to reduce future disruptions to communication systems and climate control at FCI Hazelton?
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## **MID-ATLANTIC REGION**

# **FCC BUTNER II**

## **Climate Control, Institutional Operations, Food Service, Communication Access, and Conditions of Confinement Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding climate control, food service operations, institutional movement, and communication access at FCC Butner II.

According to the reporting received, incarcerated individuals continue to experience housing units without functioning air conditioning during periods of elevated summer temperatures. Additional reporting raises concerns regarding the quality of institution meals, with reports alleging food served is below expected standards.

Reporting further alleges prolonged lockdown conditions, with incarcerated individuals reportedly confined to their housing units for the majority of the day. Additional concerns were raised regarding recurring telephone outages, reportedly limiting communication between incarcerated individuals and their loved ones.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCC Butner II raises broader questions regarding environmental conditions, institutional operations, food service quality, communication access, and overall conditions of confinement.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area              | Description                                                                                        | Potential Concern Area    |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Climate Control           | Reporting alleges housing areas are operating without air conditioning during summer temperatures. | Environmental Health      |
| Food Service              | Reports raise concerns regarding the quality and adequacy of institution meals.                    | Food Service Operations   |
| Institutional Operations  | Reporting alleges prolonged lockdown conditions limiting routine movement and activities.          | Institutional Operations  |
| Telephone Access          | Reports indicate recurring telephone outages affecting communication with family members.          | Communication Access      |
| Conditions of Confinement | Combined reports raise concerns regarding daily living conditions within the institution.          | Conditions of Confinement |

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“FCI Butner II, no air conditioning, food is below standards, locked down 23/7, and phones never work.”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCC Butner II raises concerns extending beyond isolated operational issues and instead presents broader questions regarding institutional infrastructure, operational continuity, and living conditions.

Reports alleging prolonged air conditioning outages during periods of elevated temperatures raise questions regarding climate control, environmental health, and the institution’s ability to maintain safe housing conditions. At the same time, allegations regarding repetitive lockdowns may affect access to recreation, programming, education, employment opportunities, and other routine institutional activities.

Additional concerns regarding food quality and recurring telephone outages raise questions regarding the institution’s ability to consistently provide essential services that support both daily living and family communication. While each reported concern may have an operational explanation, the combination of these reported issues may significantly affect overall institutional conditions.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding facility infrastructure, food service operations, institutional movement, communication access, and the Bureau’s ability to maintain consistent operations while ensuring humane conditions of confinement.

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### 5. Questions for Clarification

1. What circumstances have contributed to the reported air conditioning issues at FCC Butner II, and what repairs or corrective actions are currently underway?
2. Have operational or security concerns resulted in the reported prolonged lockdown conditions, and if so, for how long have those restrictions remained in place?
3. Has institution leadership reviewed concerns regarding the quality and consistency of meals served during the current reporting period?
4. What circumstances have contributed to the reported recurring telephone outages, and what measures are being taken to restore reliable communication services?

5. How does the institution ensure incarcerated individuals maintain reasonable access to programming, recreation, communication, and other routine activities during extended operational restrictions?
  6. What corrective actions, if any, have been implemented or are planned to address the reported concerns regarding climate control, food service, communication systems, and overall institutional operations?
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## **NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

# **FCI THOMSON**

## **Medical Care, Mail Operations, Dental Services, Programming, and Institutional Operations Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding medical care, mail operations, dental services, and programming opportunities at FCI Thomson.

According to the reporting received, concerns continue regarding delays in specialty medical care, including reports of prolonged waits for medically necessary procedures and ongoing dental treatment. One report alleges an incarcerated individual waited more than two years for hernia surgery, while another reports longstanding unresolved dental needs that have significantly affected the individual's ability to eat after years without comprehensive dental treatment beyond emergency care.

Additional reporting raises continued concerns regarding institutional mail operations. Families report significant delays in mail processing, including Father's Day cards that reportedly have not yet been delivered and correspondence received months after it was originally mailed while an incarcerated individual was housed in the Special Housing Unit (SHU). These reports raise questions regarding the timely processing and delivery of both incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Loved Ones Coalition also continues to receive community feedback requesting expanded educational, vocational, and rehabilitative programming opportunities for incarcerated individuals at FCI Thomson.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCI Thomson raises broader questions regarding continuity of medical and dental care, mail processing practices, and access to programming that supports rehabilitation and successful reentry.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area             | Description                                                                                                           | Potential Concern Area   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Medical Care             | Reporting alleges prolonged delays in medically necessary procedures, including hernia surgery.                       | Health Services          |
| Dental Services          | Reports raise concerns regarding delayed restorative dental care, limiting the ability to eat normally.               | Dental Services          |
| Mail Operations          | Families report significant delays in receiving personal correspondence and greeting cards.                           | Mail Operations          |
| Programming              | Community members continue to request expanded educational, vocational, and rehabilitative programming opportunities. | Reentry & Programming    |
| Institutional Operations | The combination of delayed medical care, mail concerns, and limited programming raises                                | Institutional Operations |

|  |                               |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
|  | broader operational concerns. |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“My husband still has not received his Father’s Day cards, and I just received a letter last week that was dated back in early November when he was in the SHU.”*

*“My loved one waited over two years for hernia surgery. He also has complex dental issues that still have not been addressed except for dental emergencies. He has been told he needs the remainder of his teeth removed, but after six years his dental care remains unresolved. He is unable to eat many foods because of it.”*

Community feedback also consistently identified a desire for expanded educational, vocational, and rehabilitative programming opportunities at FCI Thomson.

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCI Thomson raises concerns extending beyond individual cases and instead presents broader questions regarding institutional operations and access to essential services.

Timely medical and dental care remain fundamental components of institutional health services. Reports alleging prolonged delays in medically necessary treatment and unresolved dental conditions raise questions regarding specialty referrals, continuity of care, and the availability of restorative dental services.

Similarly, reports of significant delays in mail delivery raise concerns regarding institutional mail processing and the ability of incarcerated individuals to maintain meaningful communication with their families. Timely correspondence plays an important role in preserving family relationships and supporting successful reentry.

Finally, Loved Ones Coalition continues to receive repeated requests from families for expanded educational, vocational, and evidence-based programming. Increased access to programming remains an important component of institutional safety, rehabilitation, and successful community reintegration.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding healthcare delivery, dental services, mail operations, and programming availability at FCI Thomson.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. What is the current average wait time for non-emergency specialty medical referrals and elective surgical procedures at FCI Thomson?
  2. What measures are being implemented to address delays in restorative and non-emergency dental care?
  3. What circumstances have contributed to the reported delays in processing incoming and outgoing mail, including correspondence addressed to individuals housed in the SHU?
  4. What quality assurance measures are in place to ensure mail is processed and delivered in a timely manner?
  5. What educational, vocational, cognitive-behavioral, and reentry programming is currently available at FCI Thomson, and are additional opportunities planned?
  6. What steps is institution leadership taking to improve access to healthcare, family communication, and rehabilitative programming?
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## **NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

# **MCFP SPRINGFIELD**

## **Renal Medical Care, Therapeutic Diets, Surgical Care, and Continuity of Treatment Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding renal medical care, therapeutic dietary accommodations, and continuity of treatment for incarcerated individuals receiving dialysis at MCFP Springfield.

According to the reporting received, incarcerated individuals receiving dialysis have allegedly not been consistently provided with the medically appropriate renal diet for approximately one year. One report alleges that administrative remedies requesting appropriate dietary accommodations were denied, with the response reportedly citing budgetary limitations as the reason additional protein could not be provided.

Additional reporting raises concerns regarding continuity of surgical and post-operative care. An incarcerated individual reports undergoing multiple surgical procedures to establish dialysis access, with both procedures reportedly unsuccessful. The reporting alleges that one surgical site may have been compromised when restraints were allegedly placed over the operative site

despite post-operative instructions. A subsequent procedure also reportedly failed after concerns regarding the requested treatment option were not accommodated. As a result, the individual reports continuing to receive dialysis through a catheter rather than a permanent vascular access site.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding MCFP Springfield raises broader questions regarding therapeutic diet compliance, continuity of specialty medical care, post-operative management, and the delivery of medically necessary treatment for individuals with chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area        | Description                                                                                                                      | Potential Concern Area |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Therapeutic Diet    | Reporting alleges dialysis patients have not consistently received medically appropriate renal diets for approximately one year. | Clinical Nutrition     |
| Dialysis Care       | Reports raise concerns regarding continuity of treatment and long-term dialysis access.                                          | Health Services        |
| Surgical Care       | Reporting alleges repeated unsuccessful procedures to establish permanent dialysis access.                                       | Specialty Medical Care |
| Post-Operative Care | Reports raise questions regarding adherence to post-operative instructions                                                       | Continuity of Care     |

|                                  |                                                                                                            |                          |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                  | following vascular access surgery.                                                                         |                          |
| Institutional Medical Operations | Combined reports raise broader questions regarding the delivery of specialized chronic disease management. | Institutional Healthcare |

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“I’m currently on dialysis and I have treatment every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For a whole year, other inmates and I have not received the proper renal diet. I wrote that up and my remedy process was denied. They said they didn’t have the budget to give us double protein.”*

*“I have had multiple surgeries to have a fistula put in my arm and it was a failure. The first one failed because an officer put handcuffs and a black box over the surgical site despite the surgeon’s order not to put anything over it. The second failure happened when I asked for a graft but was still given a fistula against my wishes. It doesn’t work at all and I have to receive dialysis through a catheter.”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding MCFP Springfield raises concerns extending beyond an individual medical case and instead presents broader questions regarding the management of chronic kidney disease and specialized medical care within a federal medical center.

Individuals receiving dialysis typically require therapeutic renal diets designed to meet increased protein needs while managing electrolyte and fluid balance. Reports alleging prolonged inability to provide medically indicated dietary accommodations raise questions regarding compliance with prescribed treatment plans and the availability of adequate clinical nutrition services.

Additionally, reports regarding repeated unsuccessful vascular access procedures and concerns surrounding post-operative care raise questions regarding surgical follow-up, coordination between custody and medical staff, and continuity of specialty care. Reliable vascular access is a critical component of long-term dialysis treatment, and delays or complications may increase medical risk.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding therapeutic diet implementation, specialty medical care, post-operative management, interdisciplinary coordination, and continuity of care for medically vulnerable incarcerated individuals at MCFP Springfield.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. What therapeutic renal diet is currently authorized for incarcerated individuals receiving dialysis at MCFP Springfield, and is it being consistently provided?
  2. If modifications to prescribed renal diets have occurred, what clinical or operational factors contributed to those changes?
  3. What policies are in place to ensure custody staff are informed of and comply with post-operative medical restrictions following surgical procedures?
  4. What is the current process for evaluating and selecting permanent vascular access options for incarcerated individuals requiring long-term dialysis?
  5. How does institution leadership monitor complications related to dialysis access and ensure timely follow-up with outside specialists?
  6. What quality assurance measures are in place to ensure individuals receiving chronic dialysis receive medically appropriate nutrition, specialty care, and continuity of treatment consistent with accepted clinical standards?
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## **SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**

# **FCC FORREST CITY LOW**

## **Climate Control, Water Service, Sanitation, and Conditions of Confinement Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding climate control, water service, and sanitation concerns at FCC Forrest City Low.

According to the reporting received, incarcerated individuals continue to report that housing units are operating without functioning air conditioning during periods of elevated summer temperatures. Families further report that individuals within the institution have been monitoring and documenting indoor temperatures due to concerns regarding excessive heat.

Additional reporting alleges that the institution is currently experiencing a disruption in running water service within the Low facility. As a result, incarcerated individuals reportedly have been required to travel to the Medium facility to shower and access basic hygiene services.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCC Forrest City Low raises broader questions regarding infrastructure reliability, environmental health, sanitation, and the institution's ability to maintain safe and humane living conditions during utility disruptions.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area              | Description                                                                                                   | Potential Concern Area    |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Climate Control           | Reporting alleges housing areas are without functioning air conditioning during elevated summer temperatures. | Environmental Health      |
| Water Service             | Reports indicate an interruption in running water within the Low facility.                                    | Facility Infrastructure   |
| Sanitation                | Incarcerated individuals reportedly must travel to another institution within the complex to shower.          | Sanitation & Hygiene      |
| Conditions of Confinement | Combined reports raise concerns regarding access to basic living necessities during infrastructure failures.  | Conditions of Confinement |

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“No AC and we have people walking around with thermometers checking the inside temps.”*

*“No running water at Low. Having to go to Medium to shower.”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCC Forrest City Low raises concerns extending beyond isolated maintenance issues and instead presents broader questions regarding institutional infrastructure and environmental conditions.

Reports alleging prolonged air conditioning outages during periods of elevated temperatures raise questions regarding heat mitigation efforts, environmental monitoring, and contingency planning for housing areas. Similarly, allegations of interrupted running water service raise concerns regarding access to sanitation, hygiene, and other essential daily needs.

Reliable access to climate control, potable water, and hygiene facilities are fundamental components of institutional operations. While temporary utility disruptions may occur, prolonged interruptions may significantly affect the health, safety, and overall living conditions of incarcerated individuals.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding facility infrastructure, emergency response planning, preventative maintenance, and the institution's ability to maintain safe and sanitary conditions during utility failures.

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### 5. Questions for Clarification

1. What circumstances led to the reported loss of air conditioning and running water at FCC Forrest City Low?
2. How long have these reported utility disruptions affected the Low facility?
3. What temporary measures have been implemented to mitigate excessive indoor temperatures and ensure adequate hydration?
4. What procedures have been established to ensure all incarcerated individuals maintain reasonable access to showers, sanitation, and hygiene while water service is disrupted?
5. Are indoor housing temperatures being monitored during the reported air conditioning outage, and if so, what corrective actions are taken when temperatures exceed acceptable levels?
6. What repairs or infrastructure improvements are currently underway, and what is the anticipated timeline for restoring full air conditioning and water service at FCC Forrest City Low?

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## **SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**

# **FCI POLLOCK**

## **Climate Control, Environmental Health, and Conditions of Confinement Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding climate control and environmental conditions within housing units at FCI Pollock.

According to the reporting received, incarcerated individuals report that housing cells are experiencing excessive indoor temperatures despite limited airflow from ventilation systems. Reporting indicates the airflow from cell vents is minimal and insufficient to adequately cool the housing units during periods of elevated summer temperatures.

Additional reporting alleges that outdoor recreation was reportedly restricted due to extreme heat conditions while the housing units themselves remained excessively hot, raising concerns regarding environmental conditions inside the institution.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCI Pollock raises broader questions regarding climate control, ventilation, heat mitigation measures, and the institution's ability to maintain safe living conditions during periods of extreme heat.

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### **2. Key Concern Table**

| <b>Concern Area</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                      | <b>Potential Concern Area</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Climate Control     | Reporting alleges housing cells remain excessively hot despite functioning ventilation. | Environmental Health          |

|                           |                                                                                                                                  |                           |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ventilation               | Reports indicate airflow from cell vents is minimal and insufficient to cool housing areas.                                      | Facility Infrastructure   |
| Heat Mitigation           | Outdoor activities were reportedly restricted because of excessive heat while indoor housing conditions remained extremely warm. | Institutional Operations  |
| Conditions of Confinement | Combined reports raise concerns regarding prolonged exposure to elevated indoor temperatures.                                    | Conditions of Confinement |

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“Apparently the cells have no AC—it’s like a faint breeze that blows out the vent. He said it’s hot as hell in the cells and has been. Today they aren’t letting them go outside because of the heat, but the cells are burning up too.”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCI Pollock raises concerns extending beyond isolated comfort issues and instead presents broader questions regarding institutional climate control and environmental health.

Periods of extreme summer heat may require institutions to implement measures that reduce the risk of heat-related illness. Reports alleging that indoor housing temperatures remain excessively high despite ventilation systems raise questions regarding the effectiveness of cooling systems and heat mitigation strategies within occupied housing units.

Additionally, reports indicating outdoor movement was restricted because of heat while indoor temperatures reportedly remained elevated raise broader questions regarding environmental monitoring and contingency planning during periods of excessive heat.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding climate control, ventilation, facility infrastructure, and institutional preparedness to maintain safe living conditions during periods of elevated temperatures.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. What is the current operational status of the climate control system serving the affected housing units at FCI Pollock?
  2. Are indoor housing temperatures routinely monitored during periods of excessive heat, and if so, what thresholds prompt corrective action?
  3. What temporary heat mitigation measures have been implemented for incarcerated individuals housed in the affected units?
  4. Have maintenance inspections been conducted to evaluate the reported lack of cooling and limited airflow from housing unit vents?
  5. What steps is institution leadership taking to ensure housing conditions remain within safe environmental standards during periods of extreme summer temperatures?
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## **SOUTHEAST REGION**

# **FCI ALICEVILLE**

## **Visitation, Parent-Child Interaction, and Family Engagement Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding visitation practices and parent-child interaction at FCI Aliceville.

According to the reporting received, Captain Kaiser has reportedly prohibited incarcerated mothers from interacting with their children within the institution's designated children's visitation area. Reporting indicates the area contains child-friendly furnishings and activities, including a colorful rug, play furniture, toys, and interactive play equipment; however, incarcerated mothers are reportedly not permitted to enter the space or play with their children while visiting.

According to the reporting received, the restriction is based on an interpretation of Bureau of Prisons visitation policy limiting physical contact during visitation to a brief embrace or kiss at the beginning and end of the visit. Families question whether prohibiting supervised parent-child interaction within the children's area is necessary given the institution's existing security measures.

Reporting further notes that incarcerated individuals are allegedly subjected to multiple security procedures before and after visitation, including strip searches, clothing changes, and full-body scanner screening prior to returning to their housing units.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCI Aliceville raises broader questions regarding visitation practices, parent-child bonding, family engagement, and the balance between institutional security and maintaining meaningful family relationships.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area          | Description                                                                                                                                    | Potential Concern Area   |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Visitation Practices  | Reporting alleges incarcerated mothers are prohibited from entering or interacting with children in the designated children's visitation area. | Family Visitation        |
| Parent-Child Bonding  | Reports raise concerns regarding limitations on meaningful interaction between mothers and their children during visits.                       | Family Engagement        |
| Policy Interpretation | Reporting raises questions regarding the interpretation and application of Bureau visitation policies.                                         | Institutional Operations |

|                     |                                                                                                                                                               |                        |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Security Procedures | Existing visitation security measures reportedly include strip searches, clothing changes, and full-body scanner screening before returning to housing units. | Institutional Security |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“FCI Aliceville’s Captain Kaiser has completely shut down the children’s room during visitation. Mothers cannot play with their kids there; it is only for children.”*

*“Captain Kaiser states that it is in the program statement that only a quick embrace or kiss is allowed at the beginning and end of visitation. And that allowing us to play with our children in the children’s room would violate the policy.”*

*“We get strip searched before and after visits, change into a jumpsuit and slides, then go through a whole-body scanner before returning to our units. Isn’t that enough?”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCI Aliceville raises concerns extending beyond an individual visitation decision and instead presents broader questions regarding family engagement and the implementation of visitation policies within the institution.

Maintaining healthy family relationships is widely recognized as an important component of institutional adjustment and successful community reintegration. Child-friendly visitation spaces are generally intended to promote positive interactions between incarcerated parents and their children in a safe, supervised environment.

While institutional security remains a legitimate operational priority, the reporting received raises questions regarding whether current visitation restrictions appropriately balance security considerations with opportunities for meaningful parent-child interaction, particularly when multiple security screening measures are reportedly already in place before and after visits.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding visitation policy implementation, family engagement practices, consistency in policy interpretation, and opportunities to strengthen parent-child relationships while maintaining institutional security.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. What Bureau of Prisons policy or local institution supplement governs the use of the children's visitation area at FCI Aliceville?
  2. Does the institution prohibit all parent-child interaction within the children's area, or are restrictions limited to specific activities?
  3. What operational or security concerns led to the current interpretation of visitation policy?
  4. Have alternative approaches been considered that would allow supervised parent-child interaction while maintaining institutional security?
  5. Given the reported security procedures conducted before and after visitation, how does the institution evaluate whether additional restrictions are necessary?
  6. What opportunities currently exist for incarcerated mothers to engage in age-appropriate interaction with their children during visitation?
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## **SOUTHEAST REGION**

# **FCI TALLADEGA**

## **Food Service Operations, Nutritional Variety, and Menu Implementation Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding food service operations following implementation of the institution's updated menu at FCI Talladega.

According to the reporting received, incarcerated individuals report that while the revised menu has been implemented, meal portion sizes have remained largely unchanged. Reporting further indicates that chicken continues to be served with significant frequency under different menu descriptions, resulting in limited entrée variety despite the menu changes.

Additional reporting alleges that a previously scheduled hamburger and fries meal has been removed from the menu rotation, reducing meal diversity. At the same time, reporting notes a positive improvement with the addition of fresh fruit, which incarcerated individuals report has been a welcome source of nutritional value.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCI Talladega raises broader questions regarding menu implementation, entrée variety, nutritional balance, and overall food service operations while also acknowledging reported improvements in access to fresh fruit.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area            | Description                                                                                                   | Potential Concern Area   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Food Service Operations | Reporting indicates portion sizes remain largely unchanged following implementation of the new menu.          | Food Service Operations  |
| Menu Variety            | Reports allege chicken continues to be served with significant frequency despite different menu descriptions. | Nutrition & Wellness     |
| Menu Changes            | Reporting indicates the previous hamburger and fries meal has been removed from the rotation.                 | Institutional Operations |
| Positive Development    | Families report that the addition of fresh fruit has improved access to nutritious food options.              | Nutrition & Wellness     |

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## 3. Direct Testimony

*“After the new menu was implemented, the portions are still the same ,but they are killing the chicken. They serve it over and over again, giving it five different names but it’s the same thing. They took the hamburger and fries day completely away and we liked that. But I will say that the real fruit is great for vitamins.”*

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#### **4. Systemic Concerns**

The reporting received regarding FCI Talladega raises broader questions regarding menu implementation and nutritional variety following recent changes to institutional food service operations.

While reporting indicates that fresh fruit has been a positive addition to the menu, concerns remain regarding limited entrée diversity and meal variety. A nutritionally balanced menu includes not only appropriate portion sizes but also reasonable rotation of protein sources and meal options.

The inclusion of positive feedback alongside reported concerns provides a more complete picture of current food service operations and highlights areas where improvements have been recognized while identifying opportunities for continued enhancement.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding menu planning, nutritional variety, food service quality, and continued evaluation of recently implemented menu changes.

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#### **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. Has the implementation of the revised menu changed portion sizes or only menu selections at FCI Talladega?
  2. How does the institution evaluate menu variety to ensure reasonable rotation of protein sources and entrée options?
  3. What factors contributed to the removal of previously scheduled menu items, including the reported hamburger and fries meal?
  4. Has the institution evaluated incarcerated individual feedback regarding the revised menu since implementation?
  5. Are there plans to continue expanding fresh food options while improving overall menu variety and nutritional balance?
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#### **SOUTHEAST REGION**

# FCC YAZOO CITY LOW

## Climate Control, Facility Infrastructure, Staff Conduct, and Programming Concerns

### 1. Summary of Concerns

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding environmental conditions, facility infrastructure, staff conduct, and programming at FCC Yazoo City Low.

According to the reporting received, incarcerated individuals continue to experience recurring electrical outages within the institution. Families report that the electrical service has allegedly been interrupted on multiple occasions, contributing to excessive indoor heat within the housing units. Reporting further alleges temperatures have become so extreme that condensation has formed on the walls and floors inside the facility.

Additional reporting indicates that a staff member identified as (redacted) has reportedly been placed on administrative leave following allegations of assault involving an incarcerated individual. Loved Ones Coalition has not independently verified the reported administrative action; however, reporting indicates the staff member also served as an instructor for an institutional program. Families report the absence of the instructor has disrupted the program, preventing incarcerated individuals from completing required coursework.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FCC Yazoo City Low raises broader questions regarding facility infrastructure, environmental conditions, continuity of programming, and institutional operations.

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### 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area       | Description                                                                        | Potential Concern Area  |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Electrical Service | Reporting alleges recurring electrical outages affecting institutional operations. | Facility Infrastructure |

|                 |                                                                                                                                      |                       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Climate Control | Reports indicate excessive indoor heat, with condensation reportedly forming on walls and floors.                                    | Environmental Health  |
| Staff Conduct   | Reporting alleges a staff member has been placed on administrative leave following an alleged assault on an incarcerated individual. | Staff Accountability  |
| Programming     | Reports indicate disruption of institutional programming due to the reported absence of a program instructor.                        | Reentry & Programming |

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“seems like the electric is off every other day. It’s so hot in here the walls and floors are sweating.”*

*“One of the guards is on administrative leave for assaulting an inmate, last name (Redacted). He is also one of the program teachers, so the inmates are unable to complete the program.”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

The reporting received regarding FCC Yazoo City Low raises concerns extending beyond isolated incidents and instead presents broader questions regarding institutional infrastructure, environmental health, staffing continuity, and rehabilitative programming.

Reports of recurring electrical outages and excessive indoor heat raise questions regarding the reliability of facility infrastructure and the institution’s ability to maintain safe environmental conditions during periods of elevated temperatures.

Additionally, reporting that a program instructor is unavailable due to an alleged administrative matter raises questions regarding continuity of educational and rehabilitative programming. Access to programming plays an important role in institutional adjustment, skill development, and successful reentry. Interruptions to programming may delay participants' progress and reduce opportunities available to incarcerated individuals.

Taken together, the reporting received raises broader questions regarding facility maintenance, climate control, staffing continuity, programming availability, and institutional oversight.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. What circumstances have contributed to the reported recurring electrical outages at FCC Yazoo City Low, and what corrective actions are underway?
  2. What measures have been implemented to mitigate excessive indoor temperatures during reported power interruptions?
  3. Has institution leadership evaluated environmental conditions within the affected housing units during the reported outages?
  4. If a staff member assigned to institutional programming is unavailable, what contingency plans are in place to ensure incarcerated individuals can continue and complete required programming?
  5. Have temporary instructors or alternative program schedules been implemented to minimize disruption to educational and rehabilitative services?
  6. What steps is institution leadership taking to ensure facility infrastructure, environmental conditions, and programming remain consistent and reliable?
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## **WESTERN REGION**

# **FPC SHERIDAN**

## **Facility Infrastructure, Utility Reliability, Leadership Engagement, and Institutional Oversight Concerns**

### **1. Summary of Concerns**

Loved Ones Coalition received reporting during this reporting period regarding recurring utility outages and Bureau leadership engagement at FPC Sheridan.

According to the reporting received, FPC Sheridan Camp once again experienced a power outage, continuing a pattern of reported infrastructure issues affecting the camp and daily institutional operations.

Additionally, during a previous reporting period, families reported that Bureau leadership visited FPC Sheridan. More recently, Loved Ones Coalition received additional reporting that another leadership group—believed to be Region—visited the institution and spent several days walking the camp. Families reported appreciating that leadership took the time to visit the camp itself, as incarcerated individuals often feel overlooked during institutional inspections.

However, according to the reporting received, no inmate recalls were conducted during either visit to the camp, limiting opportunities for incarcerated individuals to communicate concerns directly with leadership.

Taken together, the reporting received regarding FPC Sheridan raises broader questions regarding infrastructure reliability, leadership engagement, transparency, and consistency in Bureau oversight practices.

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## 2. Key Concern Table

| Concern Area            | Description                                                                                          | Potential Concern Area   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Facility Infrastructure | Reporting alleges recurring power outages continue to affect the camp.                               | Facility Infrastructure  |
| Utility Reliability     | Reports raise concerns regarding repeated interruptions to electrical service.                       | Institutional Operations |
| Leadership Engagement   | Bureau leadership and a subsequent leadership group believed to be Region reportedly toured the camp | Institutional Oversight  |

|              |                                                                                                                                                                            |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|              | without conducting inmate recalls.                                                                                                                                         |                            |
| Transparency | Reporting raises questions regarding how leadership visits are conducted and whether incarcerated individuals are provided opportunities to communicate concerns directly. | Accountability & Oversight |

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### 3. Direct Testimony

*“Sheridan Camp is once again without power. How is this a thing at all?”*

*“Region was at Sheridan for three days. Two days they walked the camp. My loved one said a staff member said it was ‘to talk to the warden about all the complaints.’”*

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### 4. Systemic Concerns

Leadership presence inside institutions is an important component of oversight, accountability, and identifying concerns that may not be apparent through administrative reporting alone.

During a previous reporting period, families reported that Bureau leadership visited FCI Sheridan but didn’t go to FPC Sheridan. More recently, Loved Ones Coalition received reporting that another leadership group—believed to be Region—visited the institution and toured the camp over multiple days. Inmates reported appreciating that leadership took the time to visit the camp itself, as incarcerated individuals often feel overlooked during institutional inspections.

However, according to the reporting received, no inmate recalls were conducted during either visit to the camp, limiting opportunities for incarcerated individuals to communicate concerns directly with leadership.

By comparison, Loved Ones Coalition has repeatedly received reports from multiple institutions that Deputy Director Mr. Smith conducts inmate recalls during many of his facility visits, providing incarcerated individuals the opportunity to speak directly with Bureau leadership.

Those reports have consistently described that level of engagement as meaningful and productive.

The reporting received raises a broader oversight question regarding whether there is a standardized Bureau practice for leadership visits or whether direct engagement with incarcerated individuals varies depending on the visiting official. Consistent opportunities for dialogue during institutional visits may strengthen transparency, accountability, and the Bureau's ability to identify and address concerns at the institutional level.

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## **5. Questions for Clarification**

1. What circumstances continue to contribute to the recurring power outages reported at FPC Sheridan, and what permanent corrective actions are being implemented?
2. During the recent visit by the leadership group believed to be Region, were any inmate recalls conducted at the camp?
3. Does the Bureau of Prisons have a standardized protocol governing how Bureau leadership and Regional leadership engage with incarcerated individuals during institutional visits?
4. Deputy Director Mr. Smith has been repeatedly reported by incarcerated individuals across multiple institutions as conducting inmate recalls during facility visits. Is this an individual leadership practice, or is it a model the Bureau intends to encourage more broadly?
5. If inmate recalls are not conducted during leadership visits, how does Bureau leadership ensure concerns from incarcerated individuals are directly heard and evaluated?
6. What steps are being taken to improve both infrastructure reliability and transparency during future leadership visits to FPC Sheridan?