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From: Micah Hall
RE: Facility Memorandum
Date: December 28, 2024

Allen Correctional Facility

Introduction

Allen Correctional Center is a facility located in Allen Parish at 3751 Lauderdale Woodyard Rd, Kinder, Louisiana, 70648. This facility first opened its doors in November of 1990 and was owned and run by an organization known as GEO, Inc. During its first few years of operation, the facility could comfortably house a maximum of 706 inmates and had a total of 22 officers. The facility was eventually bought out by the State of Louisiana. As of today, this facility is known to be a private state owned prison.¹ As of today, Allen Correctional Center now has a housing capacity of roughly 1,538 inmates with a total of 920 officers and staff combined. Keith Wooley is currently the warden of this facility and has been for the past 33 years.² While the official demographic makeup of the facility is not made known to the public, it can be assumed that the facility has a high male inmate population.

¹ <https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/allen-correctional-center/>

² <https://www.geogroup.com/geo-news/allen-correctional-center-marks-25th-year/>

Jail oversight and Leadership

Allen correctional center is led by Warden Keith Cooley and deputy warden Brent Thompson. Warden Keith Cooley has been named as the warden of this facility for the past 33 years. He has received multiple awards for his leadership and the way he runs the facility. Deputy warden Brent Thompson has received many honors and accolades as well. Thompson is known for his work with the training programs that are offered within the correctional center.

Jail Characteristics

As mentioned in the introduction, Allen Correctional facility first opened its doors in November 1990, which could comfortably house 706 inmates. After being bought out by the state of Louisiana, the prison was expanded and can now house 1,538 inmates. As of 2022, there was a current total of 902 inmates being housed at this facility. This facility did not disclose the overall ratio of men to women inmates.

As per the 2023-2024 year, this facility received a budget of \$31,223,570. This budget is seen to be about a \$1,000,000 decrease from the 2022-2023 year; the reason for this decrease is unknown to the public. This budget is divided and average per number of current offenders,

which comes out to about \$1,474. This cost is then divided for the cost of each offender per day; this total is \$57.88/day.³

There are many programs that are offered to inmates at this facility. Educational programs allow inmates to focus on their educational growth so that they can be prepared for life outside of the facility. This correctional facility offers a variety of educational programs, depending on the level in which the inmate is at. The adult basis program focuses on the basics of reading, english, and math and basic adult literacy focuses on the basics and specifics of reading and writing. The correctional learning network puts an emphasis on reading, math, science, and social studies at a more advanced level. The vocational programs allow the inmates to put a focus in certain career fields as well as therapy services such as alcoholics anonymous (AA) and narcotics anonymous (NA) that inmates may find beneficial.⁴

Allen correctional center is one of only a few Louisiana facilities that offers a reentry program to the inmates. This program is composed of 3 phases. Phase 1 is known as the institutional phase and occurs from admission to the eligibility of parole. This portion of the program is dependent on various factors of the inmate (mental and physical health status, education level, etc. Phase 2 (transition phase) begins when the inmate reaches their target release date. 3 years before the release date, the inmate is placed in specific programs that they must complete before leaving the facility. About 4 months before the release date, forms of identification are created and given to the inmate. Lastly, phase 3 (community phase) begins once the inmate is released. This phase continues under the supervision of the community sponsor and ends once the former inmate is discharged from that sponsor.⁵

³<https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/allen-correctional-center/>

<https://doc.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/0d-Budget-Human-Resources-PF-Website.pdf>

⁴<https://doc.louisiana.gov/imprisoned-person-programs-resources/>

⁵<https://doc.louisiana.gov/imprisoned-person-programs-resources/transition-reentry/>

Public Records Request and Inmate Mortality

The facilities main webpage can be found at This website, however, does not contain a database that can be accessed. Furthermore, this facility's website did not include instructions on how to request a public record. Based on the information from the previous year, it has been known that getting in contact with this correctional facility is a bit of a struggle. I reach out to After countless emails and phone calls, I was not able to get in contact with any of the staff named above. When doing research, there was no information regarding the deaths of any inmates at this facility.

Jail News Coverage and Transparency

While this facility doesn't have many instances in which the media has been made aware, there are a few that have made recent headlines. In October of 2016, former inmate Aaron Franklin had sued the company that ran the facility due to two prison officers forcing him to partake in unwanted sexual activities. This abuse began back in 2014 with one of the officers burning Franklin with cigarettes, which soon progressed to the officers forcing him to have sex

with him. After investigation, both of the officers involved were relieved from their duties and are no longer employed at this correctional facility. GEO group, however, did not issue any statement in regards to the status of the officers case. Today, Franklin says that the abuse follows him around, making it hard to forget and move on from.⁶

The most recent incident for this correctional center had occurred in January 2024. Vivian Joy Herbert, age 22, was accused of being in sexual contact with an inmate. Herbert was accused with sending explicit photos and the inmate was receiving the photos through a phone that they were not supposed to have. Once caught, Herbert was fired from the facility and arrested on January 24, 2024. She was later released on a \$15,000 bond that same day. Her investigation is currently still active.

This facility's overall transparency is extremely dependent on how much information the officers choose to release. In most cases, only broad details about the case are released and no other information can be found.⁷

⁶ <https://www.splinter.com/a-disturbing-lawsuit-claims-private-prison-guards-force-1793862914>

⁷ <https://www.kplctv.com/2024/01/30/allen-correctional-guard-accused-sending-inappropriate-photos-inmates/>