

**Corrections Commission
of
Northwest Ohio**

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PRESS RELEASE

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STRYKER -- The Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio unveiled its new technological weapon against the smuggling of contraband into the jail -- the Sotor RS.

The Sotor RS is a body scanner with advanced detection capabilities that will hinder drugs and other contraband from being smuggled into the facility. Recent headlines from Pennsylvania and other parts of Ohio have highlighted the aftermath of a dangerous drug smuggling trend and CCNO has been no exception. Overdose incidents in 2017 were a factor considered when the Corrections Commission authorized the purchase of the body scanner to prevent inmates from getting drugs into the jail.

"I've been at CCNO for 24 years and I can't say enough about how this body scanner will improve security and safety at this facility," said Corrections Supervisor Beth Miller. She said if an inmate inserts contraband into their body cavity it can't be seen, but now with the new technology in place, it will enhance security and expedite the search process when inmates come into the facility. "I'm excited about the body scanner," said Supervisor Miller, "and thanks to the board's approval to purchase the machine it will enhance security measures."

Officer Jesse Gibson said the body scanner uses minimal radiation while giving staff the confidence in being able to find contraband as well as prevent potential drug overdoses. "It will definitely help increase the strip search process and efficiency," he said.

"The big deterrent by far will be the word of mouth from inmates who will let others know that a body scanner is in place at CCNO and it will deter an attempt to bring any contraband into the facility," said Officer Troy Bentley.

The body scanner – purchased from OD Security North America – has effective image detection, offering the least invasive image with the greatest detection capability. The system allows the detection of external and internal contraband. Lucas Richter with OD Security said this body scanner is nothing like what is used in airports, "its better." The system is being used in 35 states in helping detect drugs, tobacco, weapons, cell phones, metal and plastic items as

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well as other types of contraband.

At the same time, said Mr. Richter, the radiation level is extremely low and far less than radiation used in a dental chair or hospital. He added that the system is designed and manufactured to deliver zero radiation risk to the operator.

Officials began the search in October 2017 to purchase a body scanner. The specialized equipment was purchased at a cost of \$145,000 with a five-year maintenance agreement and was installed in one day. Staff received training and implemented its usage on Wednesday.

“It may be a big expense but it will enhance safety and will be cost effective,” said CCNO Executive Director Dennis Sullivan. It could cost between \$2,000 and \$10,000 in hospital costs alone to treat an inmate when drugs -- hidden inside the body cavity -- result in a medical emergency situation, he said.

CCNO officials say the addition of the body scanner will be good for the inmates as well as help with the continuing opiate scare. Inmates will be made aware that attempting to smuggle drugs into a corrections facility results in a third degree felony charge and up to three years in prison. Jail management is hopeful that merely knowing the body scanner is in place will deter inmates from even attempting to bring drugs or other contraband. They added that an inmate’s time in incarceration is meant to be sober; a time to get clean and focus on improving their life through programs offered at CCNO.

CCNO officials note that the addition of the body scanner will exemplify the priority of safety for everyone in their facility – staff and inmates. The fight against drug addiction must be fought at several levels and this responsible approach at CCNO is worth recognizing.



Pictured above is Lukas Richter with OD Security North America displays the use of a body scanner recently installed at the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio.



Viewing the image of the body scanner, left to right, is Officer Jesse Gibson, Supervisor Beth Miller and Officer Troy Bentley.