Kansas Gov frustrated with Corizon after prisoners riot

KS Corrections Department investigating Lansing prison riot Prisoners complain of lack of health care due to COVID-19. Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly has promised a complete investigation into Thursday’s riot at the Lansing Correctional Facility. Two inmates had minor injuries after a group of inmates started destroying property on their way back to cells from the showers. Kansas Department of Corrections officers retreated from the C-block cell, holding 169 medium security inmates just after 3 p.m. No staff members received injuries. A prison riot team entered the facility and gained control of the prisoners around 11 p.m. Staff gave the all-clear around 2 a.m. Friday morning, according to Kelly. “We will learn from this,” the governor said at a Friday afternoon news conference in Topeka. “Rest assured, my administration will hold those responsible for the disturbance to account, and put in place any additional steps that are necessary to ensure that safety and order is maintained.” Video from prisoners taken on cellphones inside the facility circulated widely on the internet. The video showed destroyed chairs, windows, and offices, with prisoners complaining about the lack of health care due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Twelve inmates and 16 staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 at the facility. Kelly said she was also frustrated with the health care provided by the state’s contractor Corizon Correctional Healthcare. On Friday, she directed her chief of staff to send a letter to Corizon’s CEO regarding the healthcare in the facility. Corizon and the state of Kansas have been involved in a battle over the prison healthcare contract with the state. Corizon Health CEO James Hyman released the following statement: "Corizon is committed to protecting the health and well-being of staff and inmates at all KDOC correctional facilities. Planning for COVID-19-related health issues began at the beginning of February despite KDOC’s reluctance to participate in emergency preparedness exercises, which have proven to be a key to successful management in other states. We will continue to monitor and address this constantly evolving landscape."