



Corrections and Community Supervision

Law Enforcement Suicides and Attempted Suicides in New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

2023

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Introduction

In accordance with Public Law 116-143, this report details instances of staff suicide and staff suicide attempts of New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) law enforcement officers both on and off duty.

By way of background, the DOCCS Directive #4004, entitled “Unusual Incident Reports” provides guidance to Department staff on the application of Public Law 116-143. This law was enacted on June 16, 2020. During the period of 2023, there were two instances of reports required under Public Law 116-143.

Explanation

Instances of staff suicide and staff suicide attempts of DOCCS Law Enforcement Officers on and off duty in 2023:

	2023
Suicide Attempt On Duty	0
Suicide Attempt Off Duty	0
Suicide On Duty	0
Suicide Off Duty	2

Description

On April 5, 2023, a Correction Officer committed suicide in a public park utilizing a firearm. The Correction Officer worked a double shift on April 4, 2023, beginning at approximately 11:00 p.m. on April 3, 2023, ending at approximately 3:00 p.m. on April 4, 2023. The officer was a Caucasian male, 34 years old, and started with DOCCS on September 19, 2022.

On December 1, 2023, a Parole Officer committed suicide in his private residence utilizing a firearm. The Parole Officer was scheduled to work last on November 29, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; however, he left at 11:00 a.m. on that day due to illness. The officer was a Caucasian male, 53 years old, and started with DOCCS on February 22, 1993.

DOCCS continuously spreads awareness regarding staff suicide prevention by continuing to provide suicide prevention material and resources available to staff. DOCCS, Office of Mental Health (OMH) staff, members of the Employee Assistance Program, and Critical Incident Stress Management are available to provide wellness, self-care, and suicide prevention information. A Staff Wellness Task Force was established to include OMH and DOCCS staff, as well as our community partners in law enforcement. Valor (Law Enforcement Wellness) mandatory training will be provided to all Department staff. This program consists of modules developed by the Institute for Intergovernmental Research and presents information concerning incarcerated individual and releasee manipulation and staff situational awareness and safety. DOCCS worked with Desert Waters Correctional Outreach, a Colorado based non-profit organization to provide a master level training course geared specially toward promoting staff wellness. As a result, over 200 staff with various job duties statewide have been certificated to teach the training. During the holiday season, Acting Commissioner Martuscello distributed a memo to all Department of Corrections and Community Supervision staff, advising them to be attentive to those around us, that all of us can play a role in suicide prevention by knowing the signs for suicide, finding the words to reach out to a person who is in emotional pain, and reaching out to local resources for assistance.