



**Department of Corrections
and Community Supervision**

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

2024

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 2024, 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 2024:

	2024
Suicide Attempt On Duty	0
Suicide Attempt Off Duty	0
Suicide On Duty	0
Suicide Off Duty	2

Description

On March 1, 2024, a Correction Officer committed suicide in their private residence by means of asphyxiation by hanging. The Correction Officer had been out of work previously for an extended period for personal illness. The officer was a Caucasian male, 53 years of age, and began their employment with DOCCS on May 22, 2000.

On December 10, 2024, a Bureau Chief committed suicide in their personal vehicle while parked on the side of a public roadway utilizing a firearm. The Bureau Chief failed to report for duty on the day of the incident. The Bureau Chief was a Caucasian male, 53 years of age, and began their employment with DOCCS on February 1, 2007.

DOCCS continuously spreads awareness regarding staff suicide prevention by continuing to table events with suicide prevention material and resources available to staff. DOCCS and Office of Mental Health 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 is 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, 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.