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For Immediate Release

Escape Attempt Thwarted at Central New York Psychiatric Center

Inmate Patient Scales Interior Fence Before Getting Caught

Marcy , NY –Yesterday, an inmate patient at Central New York Psychiatric Center attempted to escape the facility by scaling an interior fence before being caught by a response team before he could attempt scaling two additional razor wire fences.

This escape attempts comes on the heels of five SHTAs being assaulted over the weekend as well as two escape attempts that occurred at the facility in 2014.

It highlights the need for more staff, better security measures and technology to improve staff safety and security of the facility.

The incident occurred during the morning hours. The inmate patient, who was admitted to the forensic psychiatric facility approximately a month ago, was in one of the facility's outside yards when he was able to climb over the interior fence. He proceeded to run into another area where he was going to climb a second fence.

Secure Hospital Treatment Assistants (SHTAs) were supervising the yard and witnessed the escape attempt.

A response team, which was notified of the escape attempt after the inmate patient scaled the first fence, responded to the area and was able to subdue the inmate patient. The inmate patient was escorted back inside the facility.

The inmate was recently transferred to the facility from Clinton Correctional Facility.

Central New York is one of four statewide forensic psychiatric facilities that house inmates from prisons and jails in New York.

"For the past two years, our membership has stressed the need for more staffing and better security measures at our four forensic psychiatric facilities. Our Security Hospital Treatment Assistants and

Safety & Security Officers are attacked and assaulted on a daily basis and the Office of Mental Health has failed to address the increasingly dangerous situation. Our concerns and suggestions continue to fall on deaf ears with the commissioner and there is a total disregard for public and staff safety. In 2014, there were two escape attempts that OMH never reported and clearly tried to hide from the public.

Our members continue to do their job with the utmost professionalism under this adversity. They have been seriously assaulted and permanently injured by a population that includes more violent criminals transferred in from Department of Corrections & Community Supervision (DOCCS) than ever before. The staff presently is not equipped to deal with the increase in violence and OMH needs to address this immediately before another escape attempt is successful", said John Harmon, Vice President of Law Enforcement for NYSCOPBA.

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