



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

“Keeping New York Safe”

Two Staff at Marcy Correctional Overcome by Drug Exposure

Civilian and Officer Exposed to Deadly Drug Fentanyl

For Immediate Release

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Marcy, NY – In the on-going battle to stop drugs from getting into the hands of inmates, two staff members at Marcy were overcome by the deadly drug Fentanyl and needed to be transported to an outside hospital for treatment. One staff member, a civilian, needed to be administered Narcan three times when she became unconscious after the exposure.

On Monday, April 26, the female civilian was processing a package mailed to an inmate at the medium security prison. Inside the package was a red cloth that had been saturated in some type of liquid. Exposed to the cloth for several minutes, the woman became light headed and eventually unresponsive. A lieutenant on the scene administered one dose of Narcan to the victim. It had no effect. He administered a second dose and the victim regained consciousness. After a few moments, the victim became unresponsive and the lieutenant administered a third dose. Medical staff arrived at the mail room and the victim was immediately transported to a local hospital.

Staff evacuated the immediate area and called in a hazmat team from the Utica Fire Department. The area was ventilated. The hazmat team determined the liquid on the cloth was Fentanyl.

State police were called to the prison and took the cloth as evidence. It was mailed from an address in Lockport, NY.

Staff continued their investigation and searched the dorm cube of the inmate the package was mailed to. An officer located a vial with an unknown powder inside taped to the bottom of his

locker. Once exposed to the powder, the officer became nauseous and vomited. He was immediately transported by medical staff to an outside hospital for treatment.

The dorm was evacuated and ventilated by the Utica Fire Department hazmat team. The team determined the powder in the vial was Fentanyl. No one else in the dorm sustained any exposure.

A further search of the cube located a nasal spray bottle with liquid inside underneath the pillow of another inmate living in the cube. The hazmat team determined the liquid to be Dipropylene Glycol. Dipropylene Glycol is used as a cutting agent for liquids and is commonly used for drug use.

State police seized the drugs.

Both victims were treated at the hospital and responsive and stable. Both were released after treatment.

Both inmates were placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

For the last three years NYSCOPBA has called on DOCCS to reinstall the Secure Vendor Program as a first step to limit the amount of dangerous drugs that infiltrate the prisons.

Between April 17 and 23, staff recovered the following drugs and weapons:

- Suboxone strips in packages mailed from Buffalo and Utica and in the pants of an inmate during a routine frisk
- Synthetic marijuana, commonly known as K2, in dorm searches
- Sharpened metal shank hidden inside the pants of an inmate during a frisk
- Ice-pick type weapon during the frisk of the inmates dorm

“There was simply no reason to have what occurred on April 26 if DOCCS would have utilized common sense and reinstalled the Secure Vendor Program when NYSCOPBA demanded it. Instead, they continue to pander to the inmate advocates and ignore a program that will significantly reduce the amount of drugs that get into hands of inmates. The female civilian is extremely lucky that staff acted quickly and administered Narcan to revive her and get her much needed medical attention. We are seeing more and more incidents of Fentanyl attempting to be smuggled in through the mail and it is only a matter of time before it has critical consequences. ” – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.