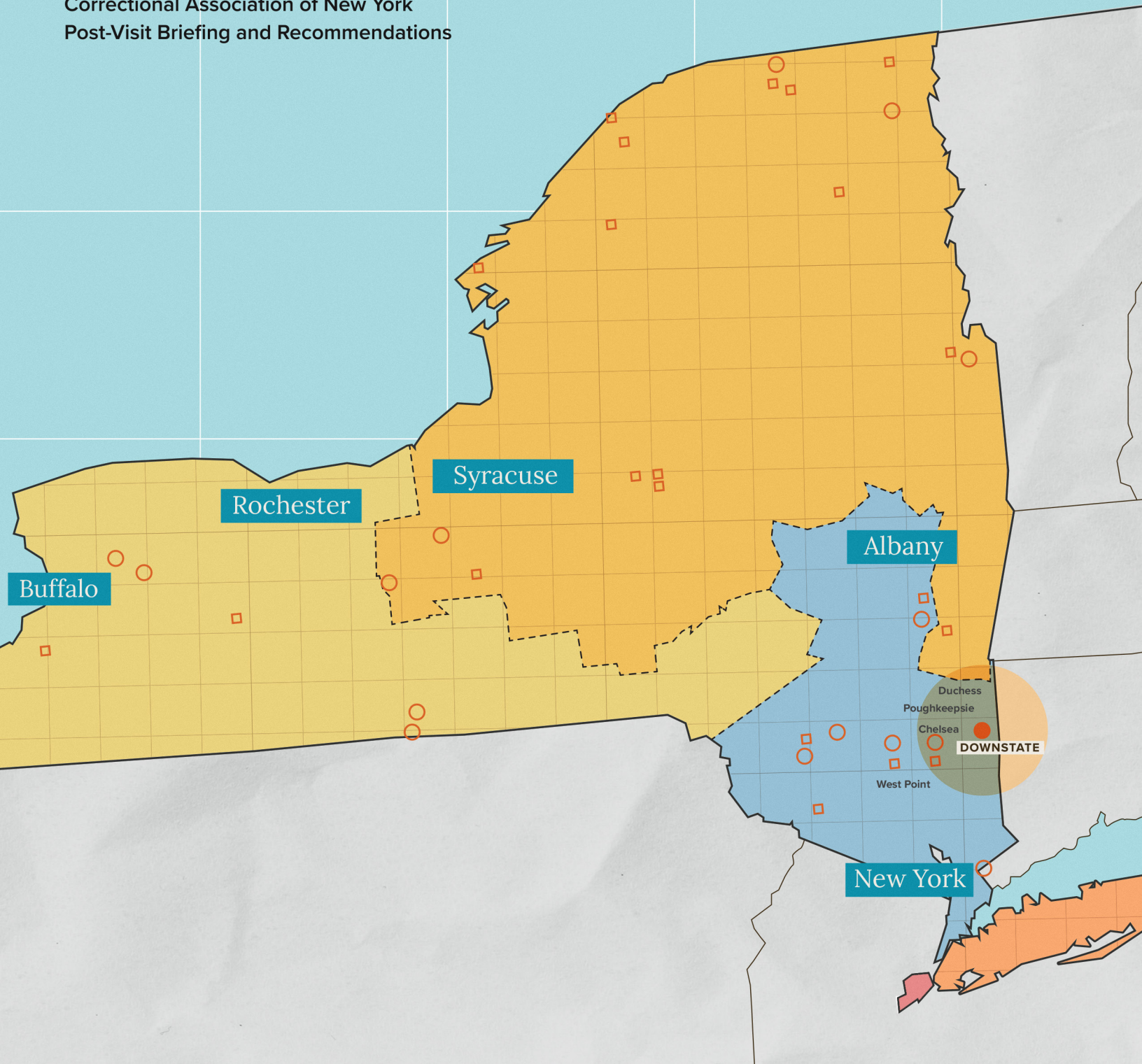


No. 22-03 October 22, 2021

# Monitoring Visit To Downstate Correctional Facility

Correctional Association of New York  
Post-Visit Briefing and Recommendations



On October 22, 2021, the Correctional Association of New York (CANY) conducted a monitoring visit to Downstate Correctional Facility in Beacon, NY. The CANY visiting party included five representatives, who completed a total of 43 interviews with incarcerated individuals: 32 individuals incarcerated in general population housing areas and 11 individuals incarcerated in the Special Housing Unit (SHU). CANY also held meetings with the prison's executive team, medical staff, union representatives, as well as the Inmate Liaison Committee (ILC) and Inmate Grievance Resolution Committee (IGRC). As Downstate serves as the Department's reception center for the southern half of the state, and as a result has a unique operational focus, the monitoring visit included interviews with members of the prison's incarcerated workforce (Cadre), incarcerated individuals moving through the reception process, individuals incarcerated at Downstate as part of a transfer process to another prison, and individuals incarcerated at the prison for transportation to court proceedings. Additionally, following the monitoring visit, CANY held a conference call with Office of Mental Health (OMH) staff.

The scope of CANY's monitoring visit to Downstate followed reports of poor working conditions and allegations of forced work programs that CANY received from incarcerated individuals at the prison. CANY representatives deployed a variety of data collection methods. All individual respondents were interviewed using a 30-question general interview protocol; individuals housed in the SHU unit were asked additional questions using a 15-question unit-specific protocol. Meetings with staff and the incarcerated groups followed a semi-structured interview guide, and along with visual observations, were documented using a variety of note-taking methods.

There were a number of positive observations made during the monitoring visit. CANY representatives noted a well-informed medical, dental, and mental health staff at the prison. Incarcerated individuals noted better access and attention to healthcare needs at Downstate than they'd experienced in other prisons and/or local jails. CANY also noticed a strong and effective effort to provide COVID-19 vaccinations for incarcerated individuals at the prison; many incarcerated people indicated that they had received an opportunity to take a vaccine as well as information about the vaccinations.

CANY's monitoring visit also revealed a lack of access to college programs for incarcerated individuals in the working cadre, a lack of availability and access to phones, and the use of double-celling at the prison.

CANY has the following recommendations for the department to implement in the reception process and at other prisons, regardless of the department's announcement to close Downstate in 2022<sup>1</sup>: The recommendations are structured into two types: facility-specific and system-wide. Facility-specific recommendations are numbered and listed in order. The recommendations on issues for which a system-wide, rather than facility-specific response, is required are highlighted in text boxes and given a reference number.

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1 "Hochul to Close 6 New York Prisons. Here's Why." November 9, 2021 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/09/nyregion/prisons-closing-new-york-hochul.html>

These ongoing system-wide recommendations will be referenced in future reporting as these issues are observed elsewhere; the level of uptake of all recommendations is being tracked and documented over time.

As required by state law [NY Correction Law §146 (3)], CANY provided DOCCS advance copies of this report and an opportunity to comment during a 60-day review period. DOCCS’ response can be found in full of pages 8-13. Apart from the response by DOCCS, this report solely contains information independently collected and reviewed by CANY.

## 1 DOCCS should install additional phones and repair malfunctioning phones.

Individuals incarcerated at Downstate noted a lack of access to working phones, with some noting only one phone available for use for entire units, and restricted access due to the large number of people per phone. People incarcerated at Downstate noted the lack of access to phones as a particular point of frustration for many people in the prison, with shortened phone time and interruptions to phone calls leading to further tension. There were nine mentions of inadequate quality and accessibility of communications services, the majority of which contained specific references to phones. One individual reported that “some days [I am] unable to get on the phone. They need more phones and kiosks. The little things count.” Other people expressed similar sentiments, repeating that the facility needed more phones and kiosks.

Increasing access to phones by making the necessary investments in new equipment, as well as repairs to already existing equipment, will remove a point of frustration for many incarcerated people, which will undoubtedly improve conditions for both incarcerated people and staff at the prison. Additionally, adding phones would allow incarcerated individuals to maintain ties with family members and loved ones, which is critical for a successful re-entry process. CANY makes the following system-wide recommendation:

<b>System-Wide Recommendation R5.22</b>	
<p><b>DOCCS should allow telephone calls through tablets, in addition to ensuring that there are adequate phones installed in housing and recreation areas across all facilities.</b></p>	<p>Across multiple visits CANY representatives have interviewed incarcerated people who have reported that they are unable to use the phone in recreation yards or housing units due to safety concerns, scheduling conflicts, interference by staff, or other issues with accessibility.</p> <p>It is essential that DOCCS take the necessary steps to allow incarcerated people the fundamental right of telephone communication by providing sufficient numbers of phones as well as allowing phone calls to be made through tablets.</p>

## **2** DOCCS should eliminate double-bunking and double-celling.

Staff at Downstate indicated that double-celling, the practice of incarcerating two people in a single cell, was occurring at Downstate at the time of our monitoring visit. Ending the practice of incarcerating two people in a cell will improve conditions for those incarcerated in close quarters, provide an additional means to socially distance individuals already living in congregate settings through the COVID-19 pandemic, while also improving working conditions for staff.

The Governor acted to prohibit double-bunked incarceration (Chapter 570, 2021)<sup>2</sup> on November 3, 2021. While DOCCS has up to 90 days to implement this change in the law, CANY makes the facility-specific recommendation that the department moves expeditiously to eliminate double-bunking and double-celling at Downstate, and across the system, as soon as possible.

## **3** DOCCS should provide televisions for the working cadre.

Incarcerated people in the working cadre at Downstate indicated a desire to have personal televisions as are afforded to individuals in the working cadre in other prisons, as well as individuals in the general population in other prisons. Allowing individuals incarcerated who are in the working cadre personal televisions would provide a better quality of life for people in the cadre and would serve as a meaningful incentive.

DOCCS should conduct an assessment that takes into account both incarcerated individuals' perceptions of gaps, as well as career advisors' assessment of needed employment, to evaluate viable options for the improvement of programs. DOCCS should also draw on program offerings at other facilities such as Sing Sing as incarcerated people expressed in the open ended responses, for options that could be offered at Clinton. Specifically, CANY noted that the only college program offered is through correspondence, rather than through a partnership with a nearby university (e.g., SUNY Plattsburgh).

## **4** DOCCS and OMH should improve the responsiveness to requests for medical, dental, and mental health care and ensure that an adequate level of care is provided.

Closed ended responses collected revealed that while over 90% of respondents met with medical services staff to receive a medical screening and met with mental health staff to receive a suicide screening, 44% of individuals did not feel that the reception

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2 "Senate Bill S2211" January 20, 2021 <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s2211>

process accurately recorded and diagnosed their medical and mental health needs. 30% of individuals were assigned an OMH level, indicating a high prevalence of mental health needs. In the open ended responses, individuals discussed inadequate medical and mental healthcare, and a variety of healthcare needs. There were 11 mentions of long waits for treatment if received at all. For example, one individual reported that “They do not care and only do the bare minimum. The COs are very involved in the process.” Another person disclosed that he “asked to see OMH for stress two weeks ago but has not seen anyone yet” and one more individual expressed that “I did not see medical here for three days after arriving and my prescription was denied upon entry.”

The delivery, accessibility, and quality of care for incarcerated individuals, as well as accurate screening and diagnoses, are of critical importance, especially for those entering the system for the first time (almost 40% of respondents). As these screenings and diagnoses impact where people are incarcerated and the kinds of services they have access to while at a specific facility, it is crucial that prison-based healthcare is delivered by a sufficient number of staff who possess the required sensibilities and skills allowing for the appropriate treatment of people with healthcare needs.

## **5** DOCCS should automatically provide access to commissary account funds for individuals incarcerated at Downstate on a transfer or as a result of court proceedings.

CANY representatives spoke with people incarcerated at Downstate, who were either waiting for a transfer to another prison or were incarcerated at the prison as a result of a court proceeding (i.e., out to court), who did not have access to funds already deposited in their commissary account. According to them, this was because the account was still tied to the prison where the person was originally incarcerated prior to their arrival at Downstate. In the open ended responses, one individual expressed that “I’m not a new admit or parole violator. I’m not in the system and my status is unclear, so I don’t have a commissary account.” When this point was raised with the executive team at the prison, they noted that incarcerated individuals could place a specific request to have their funds transferred to Downstate after a certain period of time.

Automatically transferring these funds to a commissary account that can be accessed at Downstate would allow incarcerated individuals to purchase products from the commissary, including food and hygiene products, provide for a better quality of life for incarcerated people, and reduce the workload of staff in managing these requests. To that end, CANY makes the following facility-specific recommendation: DOCCS should automatically provide access to commissary account funds for individuals incarcerated at Downstate on a transfer or as a result of court proceedings.

**6** DOCCS should develop and implement a suicide risk assessment and screening for incarcerated individuals in transfer, out to court, and those returning from a parole board hearing.

CANY representatives were informed by the Executive Team that a death by suicide had occurred at Downstate on October 17, 2021. Conversations with incarcerated individuals indicated that the individual who took his own life might have been denied release at a recent parole hearing. As court proceedings, parole hearings, and transfers can lead to increased stress and uncertainty for incarcerated individuals, implementing a suicide risk assessment and screening process coupled with a peer support program for individuals undergoing crisis could be critical for prevention of self-harm. Thus, CANY makes the following system wide recommendation:

**System-Wide Recommendation R6.22**

In light of the finding that the suicide rate in NYS prisons is 88% higher than the national average, it is imperative that DOCCS and OMH identify good practice in suicide prevention, evaluate current gaps and failures in existing policy, and publicly report on its findings and plans for addressing the crisis of suicide and self-harm in prisons.

DOCCS and OMH should seek to expand approaches to peer support that currently exist within DOCCS facilities. The peer program operating at Green Haven, whereby individuals being discharged from RCTP are assigned a trained peer who provides support and assistance in reintroducing people into the general population, should be evaluated and possibly expanded to provide support for other groups of the population in crisis.

**7** Replicate the culinary arts program across DOCCS facilities.

Downstate has a strong and robust culinary arts program as witnessed by CANY representatives and confirmed in interviews with staff. Considering the prison's closing, this should be replicated system wide. DOCCS should also ensure that the individuals enrolled in that program have an opportunity to complete their certification.

**8** DOCCS should introduce a college program for incarcerated individuals at all state prisons and make college programs available to incarcerated individuals in reception, work programs, and other special populations (e.g., protective custody).

CANY representatives had multiple conversations with individuals who were interested in advancing their education by enrolling in a college program while incarcerated at Downstate but were unable to do so as there is no college program offered at the prison. Individuals reported that when they asked the administration about introducing a college program at Downstate, they were told that they were housed at Downstate to work, not to attend college. In the open ended responses, there were 23 mentions of inadequate programming quality and accessibility. Individuals reported that they had “been here one month, no program, only out of cell time is when the shift change for one hour”, and that they were “out of cell for only three hours a day; there is very little to do here.” 90% of respondents reported spending less than four hours outside of their cell per day, and more than 45% reported spending less than two hours outside.



## Corrections and Community Supervision

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ANTHONY J. ANNUCCI**  
Acting Commissioner

In response to the Correctional Association of New York's visit to Downstate Correctional Facility on October 22, 2021, the Department discusses below the programmatic and operational functions raised in their post visit report.

Downstate Correctional Facility, a maximum-security institution, officially closed on March 10, 2022. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 New York State budget that was voted on and approved by the Legislature authorized the Governor to close state prisons as the incarcerated population continues to decline and as a fiscally prudent and safe way to save taxpayer dollars. New York State continues to be at the forefront of some of the nation's most progressive criminal justice reforms by spearheading smart and fair policies that have resulted in a drastic decline in the incarcerated population. As of November 8, 2021, the total incarcerated population in state correctional facilities was 31,469. This represents both a total reduction in excess of 12,700 individuals since January 1, 2020, and the lowest total incarcerated population in New York State prisons since 1984. This is more than a 56% decline in population since the Department's high of 72,773 in 1999, with New York leading the nation with the lowest imprisonment rate of any large state. DOCCS carefully reviewed the operations at its 50 correctional facilities for possible closure. This review was based on a variety of factors, including physical infrastructure, program offerings, facility security level, specialized medical and mental health services, as well as, proximity of other facilities in the area in order to minimize the impact to staff, potential re-use options and areas of the state where prior closures have occurred in order to minimize the impact to communities. Consideration of the impact of the recently enacted Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act and Less Is More legislation was also weighed.

### Communication

Incarcerated individuals at Downstate Correctional Facility were afforded equitable access to telephones either in their housing unit or the recreation area. Additionally, the Department provided incarcerated individuals with electronic tablets free of charge. These tablets provide a suite of communication, education and entertainment applications that help incarcerated users remain connected to their communities and learn skills that will help them succeed after their release. The Secure Messaging Program allowed for communication between incarcerated individuals and their families and friends by receiving messages, e-cards, photos, and VideoGrams. At any time that staff became aware of a malfunctioning device, a repair order was expeditiously submitted to Jpay. Recognizing the importance of incarcerated individuals' communications with their communities, the Department established free calls for each incarcerated individual to receive one free 15-minute call per week; reduced the price of stamps, provided each incarcerated individual with access to a general confinement tablet and kiosk, and received four free stamps to use for secure messaging per month. Incarcerated individuals have access to their attorney's and authorized legal representatives through



privileged correspondence, legal phone calls, and confidential legal visits. The facility allows for in person visitation from the community with safety protocols in place. Incarcerated individuals had access to their attorneys and authorized legal representatives through privileged correspondence, legal phone calls, and confidential legal visits. The facility allowed for in-person visitation from the community with safety protocols in place.

### Housing

Earlier this year, the Department eliminated statewide the practice of housing incarcerated individuals where bunk beds are used in a dormitory setting.

### Recreation

Downstate Correctional Facility was a facility that provided television access in common areas for incarcerated individuals to view during their periods of recreation. Executive staff were made aware of the request for personal televisions by the facility incarcerated liaison committee (ILC). In an effort to examine the feasibility of the request, bids from local cable companies were solicited and provided to the ILC to have the incarcerated population vote about bearing the expense. The population did not agree to the cost, opting to keep their funds for other functions. No further action was taken.

### Medical and Mental Health

Downstate Correctional Facility promptly examined and evaluated incoming incarcerated individuals by medical and mental health professionals. Staff reviewed the documentations received from the sentencing county as well as elicited responses from the incoming individual. A comprehensive examination was conducted for each incarcerated individual so that their subsequent bed placement would meet the individual's appropriate level of care. Medical provided verbal and written material regarding available health care services and instruction as how to reach out for services. Appointments were set up for the individuals to be seen by physicians. All nurses received annual training on best practices and updates on health care services. Downstate Correctional Facility was a Level 1 facility for both the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and medical so that all incarcerated individuals were provided the highest level of care. Complaints that came to the attention of staff were addressed in a timely and appropriate fashion. The Department and OMH have an established Suicide Prevention Work Group (SPWG), that met monthly at Downstate Correctional Facility to discuss improving Suicide Prevention and review suicides, in addition to having a mortality review committee. In 2019, this committee worked with Program Services and developed a process to notify OMH of the parole decision, so that OMH may adequately anticipate the possible negative reaction.

### Commissary

Downstate Correctional Facility was utilized as a reception center for the classification of individuals coming into State custody. As such, most of the incarcerated individuals were incarcerated in this facility for a short period of time. Moreover, due to its proximity to New York City, many incarcerated individuals were temporarily housed while in transit to and from court trips. The Department does not

have an incarcerated account system that is easily transferable between facilities. Each facility manages and accounts for these incarcerated individual accounts while in their custody. If an incarcerated individual was transferred to Downstate Correctional Facility for an extended period of time, staff would create a temporary account to allow the individual to buy items they need or want, from the commissary.

Programming

The Department thoroughly reviewed programming and logistics to safely absorb the incarcerated population into vacancies available at other institutions. There are culinary programs that provide incarcerated students with entry level skills in the food trades. Participants are instructed in baking bread and pastry, preparing all types of foods, kitchen sanitation and the proper procedures and techniques used in serving food. However, not all facility layouts are conducive to all vocational activities. Culinary Arts programs are offered at Albion, Collins, Coxsackie, Eastern, and Woodbourne correctional facilities.

Downstate Correctional Facility was utilized as a reception center for the classification of individuals coming into State custody. As such, most of the incarcerated individuals were incarcerated in this facility for a short period of time. Many programs for higher learning are available throughout the State, depending on where the incarcerated individual was ultimately transferred. In addition to the New York Theological Seminary's Masters of Professional Studies Program, a number of facilities offer on-site college level credit-bearing courses for incarcerated individuals who possess a verified high school equivalency or high school diploma. These programs are privately funded and offer certificates, as well as Associate and Bachelor's degrees. The length of these programs varies depending on the type of program and number of credits the incarcerated individual has prior to admission. The goal of college programs is to enable incarcerated individuals to continue education beyond high school and work toward earning a college certificate or degree. Admission requirements and assessment vary depending on the on-campus policies of the school. Programs available throughout the state include:

Facility	College Program	Funding Source (Program Facilitator)
<a href="#">ADIRONDACK</a>	North County Community College Associate's Degree	The Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#">ALBION</a>	Medaille College Associate's in Liberal Studies 24 credit Alcohol and Substance Abuse Certificate Program Receive Credits and Transcript	Sunshine Lady Private Foundation and the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative
<a href="#">ATTICA</a>	Genesee Community College Associate's Degree; Ashland University Pilot College Tablet Program	Sunshine Lady Private Foundation; Second Chance Pell Initiative

<a href="#"><u>AUBURN</u></a>	College Prison Education Program Cornell University through Cayuga Community College Associate's Degree Program	Private Foundation and the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative
<a href="#"><u>BARE HILL</u></a>	North County Community College offering an Associate's Degree	The Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>BEDFORD HILLS</u></a> (Pre-College/ College)	The Bedford Hills College Program; Consortium of Colleges: Purchase, Marymount Manhattan, Union Theological Seminary and Sarah Lawrence. Support from SUNY/New Paltz Foundation. Associate's & Bachelor's Degree Programs	Private Funds and the Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>CAPE VINCENT</u></a>	Jefferson Community College Associate Degree in Individual Studies or Human Services	The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative
<a href="#"><u>CAYUGA</u></a>	College Prison Education Program – Cornell University through Cayuga Community College – Associate's Degree Program and Certificate in Liberal Arts Program beginning the fall of 2018	The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative
<a href="#"><u>CLINTON</u></a>	Ashland University Pilot College Tablet Program	Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>COXSACKIE</u></a>	Bard Prison Initiative – receive credits – Department transfers eligible individuals to Woodbourne to complete Associate's or to Eastern to complete Associate's and Bachelor's degrees	Private Funding, the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative and the Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>EASTERN</u></a>	Bard Prison Initiative Associate's and Bachelor's Degree Programs	Private Funding, the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative and the Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>ELMIRA</u></a>	College Prison Education Program--Cornell University though Cayuga Community College Associate's Degree Program	The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative
<a href="#"><u>FISHKILL</u></a>	Hudson Link: Nyack College Associate's and Bachelor's Degree Program Bard Prison Initiative Associate's Degree – Department transfers eligible individuals to Eastern to complete Bachelor's Degree	Private Funding, the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative and the Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>FIVE POINTS</u></a>	Hobart & William Smith College Receive Credits and Transcript	Private Funds The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative

	College Prison Education Program -- Cornell University Associate's Degree and Certificate in Liberal Arts Program	
<a href="#"><u>FRANKLIN</u></a>	North Country Community College offering an Associate's Degree	The Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>GREAT MEADOW</u></a>	Bennington College offers an Associate's Degree	The Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>GREEN HAVEN</u></a>	Bard Prison Initiative -- received credits -- Department transfers eligible individuals to Woodbourne to complete Associate's or to Eastern to complete Associate's and Bachelor's degrees	Private Funds
<a href="#"><u>GREENE</u></a>	Siena College and Columbia Green Community College provide college credits towards a Bachelor's Degree.	Private Funds through Hudson Link
<a href="#"><u>GOUVERNEUR</u></a>	Jefferson Community College Associate's Degree in Individual Studies or in Human Services (possible start date summer 2019)	The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative
<a href="#"><u>GROVELAND</u></a>	Rochester Prison Education Program	
<a href="#"><u>HUDSON</u></a>	Ashland University Pilot College Tablet Program	Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>MARCY</u></a>	Mohawk Valley Community College Associate's Degree Program	
<a href="#"><u>MID-STATE</u></a>	Herkimer County Community College	Member Line Item
<a href="#"><u>MOHAWK</u></a>	Herkimer County Community College	Member Line Item
<a href="#"><u>OTISVILLE</u></a>	John Jay Prison-to-College Pipeline Program offers college courses and transitions individuals to the CUNY system to complete after release.	The Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>RIVERVIEW</u></a>	St. Lawrence University SUNY Potsdam	Private Funds
<a href="#"><u>SHAWANGUNK</u></a>	Ulster County Community College Associate's Degree Program	Private Funds through Hudson Link
<a href="#"><u>SING SING</u></a>	Hudson Link: Mercy College Associate's and Bachelor's Degree Programs New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) Master's Program (must have Bachelor's to be eligible)	The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative and the Second Chance Pell Initiative Private Funds

<a href="#"><u>SULLIVAN</u></a>	Sullivan Community College Associate's Degree / St. Thomas Aquinas Bachelor's Degree Link	Private Funds through Hudson Link
<a href="#"><u>TACONIC</u></a>	Hudson Link: Marymount Manhattan College provides courses for Associate's Degree Bard Prison Initiative – provides courses for Associate's Degree	The Second Chance Pell Initiative, Columbia and Vassar are in-kind donations Private Funding, the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative and the Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>WALLKILL</u></a>	NYU Associate's in Liberal Arts	The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative
<a href="#"><u>WASHINGTON</u></a>	Adirondack Community College offers an Associate's Degree	Second Chance Pell
<a href="#"><u>WOODBOURNE</u></a>	Bard Prison Initiative Associate's Degree Program	Private Funding, the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative and the Second Chance Pell Initiative
<a href="#"><u>WYOMING</u></a>	Ashland University Pilot College Tablet Program	Second Chance Pell

## Downstate Open Ended Data Addendum (October 2021 Monitoring Visit)<sup>3</sup>

1. Inadequate programming quality and accessibility	<b>23 Total</b>
a. Failure to meet programming needs/Under-stimulation	23
2. Inadequate medical and mental healthcare	<b>17 Total</b>
a. Long waits for treatment, if at all (SHU)	11
b. Variety of medical and mental health issues	6
3. Problems with assignment to Clinton	<b>23 Total</b>
a. Inadequate quality and accessibility of communications services (SHU)	9
b. Poor conditions	9
c. Lack of basic services	5
4. Violence, abuse, and a broken grievance process	<b>17 Total</b>
a. Pattern of violence and abuse by prison staff (SHU)	13
b. Failure to prevent violence among incarcerated people (SHU)	3
c. Adequate experience	1
5. Problems with assignment to Downstate	<b>27 Total</b>
a. Opinion that sentence or assignment to Downstate was unfair (SHU)	11
b. Seeking transfer or release/Failing transfer or release process (SHU)	9
c. Understanding of assignment processes/No opinion	6
6. Lack of information with which to glean incarcerated people's awareness of effects of HALT on their status in SHU	<b>9 Total</b>
a. Little to some awareness of HALT's intent (SHU)	5
b. Use of solitary confinement as disciplinary mechanism	4

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3 Each monitoring visit protocols form yields open ended responses. This data comes from open-ended questions in follow-up to quantitative questions, from free-response prompts, and/or from field notes from the prison visit. These responses are either directly quoted or paraphrased in the third person from oral responses. Open ended questions on the protocol forms help gauge incarcerated people's views on various aspects of incarceration, in both general and specific terms. Open ended responses are collected from the general facility protocols form as well as the various specialized unit forms at each prison. Upon reception of this data, these open ended responses are tabulated by question, form, and facility (in succeeding order of organization). Responses are then coded using emergent inductive and open coding approaches: a list of themes are developed based on the responses to questions asked of all interviewees, and not based on any individual interviewee's responses. Thus, the open ended responses are inherently aggregated. All this data is coded by hand. Once the dataset has been coded into an overarching list of themes, it is then further refined into a series of subthemes under each theme. Within this document, the numbers next to each theme and subtheme refer to the number of responses coded within them.

CANY Post-Visting Briefing and Recommendations

# Monitoring Visit To Downstate Correctional Facility

No.22-03: October 22, 2021

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