



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Multiple Officers, Social Worker Injured at Wende Correctional Facility

Inmate Attempted to Sexually Attack Social Worker

**For Immediate Release
May 15, 2024**

Alden, NY – A 30 year old inmate serving a 15 year sentence, exposed himself and attempted to sexually assault a social worker who was counseling him at the maximum security correctional facility.

On Wednesday, May 1, the inmate was inside a conference room with the social worker for a counseling session. While sitting at a table, the inmate had both hands under the table and was fidgeting around. The counselor ordered the inmate to put his hands on the table and he partially complied and put one hand on the table. The inmate stood up and exposed himself and began masturbating in front of the social worker. He charged at her while still exposing himself and grabbed her by the neck as she attempted to fight back and screamed for assistance. The woman fell backwards and hit her head and neck on the floor. Two officers entered the room and one officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. The inmate was able to manipulate around and get on top of the officer and struck him multiple times in the head and face. The second officer attempted to pull the inmate off the injured officer but was unsuccessful as the inmate continued his attack. A third officer entered the room and grabbed the inmate in a bear hug and pulled him off the officer and forced the inmate to the wall, where he remained extremely combative, attempting to strike staff. With the assistance of additional staff, handcuffs and leg restraints were applied to the inmate. Once in restraints, the inmate became compliant. He was escorted from the room and brought to the infirmary for evaluation.

Five officers and the social worker were injured in the attack. The social worker was treated by facility medical staff for neck, head and arm injuries. She was transported to Erie County Medical Center for further treatment. Four officers sustained shoulder, foot, elbow and knee injuries. They were treated in the infirmary and sought additional treatment at Erie County Medical Center. The officer who was initially attacked, sustained head, facial and rib injuries. His

injuries included being dizzy and briefly lost consciousness when his head struck a wall during the attack. He was transported by ambulance to Erie County Medical Center for further evaluation.

The inmate is serving his second stint in state prison. Currently, he is serving a 15 year sentence after being convicted in Ulster County for Burglary 1st in 2014. He broke into a home to steal guns and set the house on fire by throwing a Molotov Cocktail into it. Previously, he served time in prison after being convicted in 2012 for Assault 2nd.

The inmate was transferred to Attica Correctional Facility after the attack.

State Police BCI responded to the facility to investigate the attack.

“It is quite apparent by the narrative of this attack, that the inmate was intent on assaulting the social worker. We commend her for fighting back and for the officers who rushed to her defense and stopped him from continuing his assault on the female staffer. The attack was so violent, it took four officers to stop the attack on the social worker and the officer who initially grabbed the inmate. The officer struck his head so hard that he briefly lost consciousness and if not for the quick actions of his fellow officers his injuries could be far worse. The day is going to come that an inmate is successful and kills a staff member and that blood will be on hands of the State Legislators who continue to advocate for inmate rights and ignore the violence that exists. This inmate needs to be prosecuted for his actions to these employees. He should remain in jail for years to come for this, he deserves nothing less! What will it take for these legislators to put the safety of the men and women that work inside these prisons over coddling the convicts that live there?– stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.