



Contraband, Assaults on Staff Continue to Plague Greene Correctional Facility

Cellphones, Weapons Among the Items Recovered by Staff

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Coxsackie, NY - As COVID cases continue to surge in correctional facilities across the state, Greene Correctional Facility, which endured their own rise in cases at the end of the summer, seized a number of alarming contraband, including two sawzall blades, commonly used to cut metal.

Union officials had called for a complete shutdown of Greene Correctional, a medium security prison, as reported COVID cases among inmates continued to rise at alarming rates in August and September.

Staff began routine searches for contraband in November and seized cellphones, homemade alcohol, drugs, makeshift weapons and two sawzall blades, one with a handle.

Seven cellphones have been recovered by staff. The cellphones were found in a number of common areas of the facility, including the inmate housing dorms. One cellphone was recovered in the possession of an inmate.

Staff have recovered 17 make-shift weapons, many in the ice pick variety and two sawzall blades. Synthetic marijuana, homemade alcohol and vials of septocaine were also recovered during the searches.

“For months we called on DOCCS Administration to shut down all aspects Greene Correctional and that fell on deaf ears. Only when COVID cases started to increase dramatically and Greene County Health Officials voiced their concern, did DOCCS take any proactive steps. The number of cellphones and weapons seized is alarming and causes serious safety and escape concern in our view. In addition, inmate on staff assaults continue. In November, four more officers were assaulted by inmates. It is difficult right now for staff being on the front lines of this pandemic. Coupled with DOCCS and their increasingly lax discipline for inmates, their propensity to turn a blind eye to dangerous situations continually puts staff at risk.” - stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.