Cape Vincent Correctional Facility
Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) Act
FINAL Compliance and Quality of Care Review
JC#: 77010183778

On January 14, 2026, the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (the Justice Center) conducted a site visit at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility (CF) to review the programs, treatment, and conditions of confinement for incarcerated individuals placed in segregated confinement in that facility. The Justice Center also assessed compliance with the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) Act.[1]

The Justice Center reviewed policies and practices concerning:

a. Placement of persons in segregated confinement and residential rehabilitation units (RRU).
b. Placement and treatment of persons meeting the "special population" definition in the HALT Act.[2]
c. Length of time spent in segregated confinement or residential rehabilitation units.
d. Hearings and procedures.
e. Assessments and rehabilitation plans, procedures, and discharge determinations.

The Justice Center toured the Special Housing Unit (SHU) and General Population Restricted Unit (GPRU), and spoke with 19 incarcerated individuals.[3] In addition to reviewing clinical case records, and guidance records, the Movement Logs and Programming Logs, the Justice Center also requested any Exceptional Circumstances documentation for a time-period of six months.[4] There were no incarcerated individuals placed on exceptional circumstances during the review period according to documentation received by the Justice Center.

To complete a thorough evaluation, Justice Center staff offered private interviews to 12 incarcerated individuals and no individuals accepted. The Justice Center also distributed 12 surveys to solicit information about programming, recreation, and tablet

[1] Correction Law §§137(6)(d)(e) (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), and (o) and §§138 (7), 401-a.
[2] Section 2 of the Correction Law, subdivision 33 defines Special Population as any person twenty-one years of age or younger; fifty-five years or older; with a disability; pregnant, in the first 8 weeks of post-partum recovery or caring for a child in a correctional facility.
[3] The census of the SHU was 11 incarcerated individuals, and the census of the GPRU was eight incarcerated individuals at the time of the site visit. One incarcerated individual housed in the GPRU was serving a disciplinary sanction, the remaining seven incarcerated individuals were Voluntary or Involuntary Protective Custody (VPC/IPC).
[4] Review period: July 14, 20265, to January 14, 2026.

use in segregated confinement and four surveys were returned at the time of this draft report. The Justice Center's findings, recommendations, and requests follow below.

Justice Center Findings:

Treatment and Conditions:

1. **There were no incarcerated individuals participating in out-of-cell programming or recreation at the time of the Justice Center's tour of the SHU.[5]**

   The Cape Vincent CF SHU building is a single-level, single-occupancy cell unit consisting of three galleries, identified as gallery A, B, and C, which houses both the SHU and GPRU. The Cape Vincent SHU consists of 12 housing cells on A gallery. B gallery houses the GPRU cells, while C gallery has been fashioned into a programming area containing eight Reduced Security Therapy and Recreation Table (ReSTART) chairs. The ReSTART chairs are set up in two linear rows of four ReSTART chairs, with a wall separating the two areas. A TV on a rolling cart was also available on the gallery. The housing cells on Gallery C are not used to house incarcerated individuals.

   Security staff directed Justice Center staff to the SHU Incarcerated Individual Orientation Manual for the unit and gallery schedules. As outlined in the SHU Incarcerated Individual Orientation Manual, programming is scheduled to take place from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Program staff are responsible for facilitating programming Monday through Friday, not including holidays, and on weekends recreation staff are responsible for facilitating out of cell programming. The manual includes a brief but comprehensive explanation of the purpose and goals of programming available in the SHU which includes participants being "able to identify the behavior which led to their disciplinary confinement, develop and practice emotional regulation strategies, review strategies and expectation for their next level of programming." Additionally, a cell study program is available to those incarcerated individuals in SHU who have academic needs, with the cell study teacher conducting weekly rounds or as needed based on the individual needs of those participating.

   The Justice Center was provided with the SHU/GPRU Program Schedule for a period of January 5, 2026 to February 2, 2026. The schedule outlines lessons including adult coloring pages and meditation, job search, puzzle books, "Your Winning Edge," "Your Work Values," word games, intermediate cardio, "Thinking Outside the Box," "Mindful Exercise," coping skills, and affirmations.

[5] Justice Center staff began touring the SHU at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Incarcerated individuals in SHU are offered outdoor recreation at "approximately 11:30 a.m." with all incarcerated individuals being offered one hour.[6] The SHU and GPRU building consists of a total of six single occupancy recreation pens, with two off the end of each gallery. Each recreation pen includes pull up bars. Security staff explained that SHU recreation occurs in the recreation pens located off A and C galleries, with C serving as an overflow on an as needed basis for both SHU and GPRU, as long as SHU and GPRU individuals are not out at the same time.

Static Tablets are provided to individuals in SHU from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Per the Incarcerated Individual Orientation Manual, a Law Library officer conducts daily rounds during the "3-11 shift" at which time incarcerated individuals receive their legal mail and are afforded the opportunity to make requests for legal items including books and journals.

2. **There were no incarcerated individuals participating in out-of-cell programming or recreation at the time of the Justice Center's tour of the GPRU.**

   The Cape Vincent CF GPRU is housed on the B Gallery in the SHU building and consists of 12 single-occupancy housing cells and utilizes the same programming area as the SHU on C gallery.

   Security staff directed Justice Center staff to the GPRU Incarcerated Individual Orientation Handbook for the unit and gallery schedules. As outlined in the orientation handbook, incarcerated individuals in the GPRU are offered seven hours of out-of-cell time, consisting of three hours of programming and four hours of recreation. A brief but comprehensive description of the programming offered in the GPRU is included in the handbook which states, "The program module in the GPRU is for participants to develop and practice emotional regulation strategies, as well as receive instruction on topics such as holistic health and wellness activities; soft skills; current events; stress management-physical/spiritual; and cognitive behavior therapy." Programming for individuals in GPRU is offered from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Program staff are responsible for facilitating program Monday through Friday, not including state holidays, and recreation staff or responsible for facilitating program on Saturdays and Sundays. Incarcerated individuals in the GPRU who have educational needs are also offered the cell study program.

   Outdoor recreation is offered at "approximately 8:00 a.m." and all incarcerated individuals will be provided 1 hour of outdoor recreation. Recreation for individuals in the GPRU occurs in two single occupancy recreation pens located off B gallery and contains pull up bars. If necessary, additional recreation pens are located off C gallery. The GPRU Orientation Manual further states, "An

[6] Cape Vincent Correctional Facility, Special Housing Unit Incarcerated Individual Orientation Manual (May 2025).

additional 3 hours of recreation will be provided in the evenings, upon request. Incarcerated individuals will be allowed to watch television, play boards games and cards in a congregate setting."

Static tablets are provided to individuals in the GPRU from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If an individual chooses to participate in programming, a tablet will be provided to them at 2:30 p.m.

3. **There was no program participation in the SHU or GPRU for the month of December 2025.**

   The Justice Center was provided with the SHU and GPRU program and recreation attendance records for December 1, 2025, to January 7, 2026. During this time period, there was no program participation. On only two dates, one incarcerated individual participated in recreation.

   At the Justice Center's request, the Cape Vincent CF provided program and recreation attendance records for the month of May 2026. After a review of the documentation received, the Justice Center found that out-of-cell programming participation in the SHU and GC-R occurred only once, on May 19, 2026, with one participant. The average daily participation rate for recreation in the SHU and GC-R was approximately four incarcerated individuals. Participation peaked on May 12, 2026, with 11 participants, and the lowest rate of participation occurred on several days with no participants.[7]

   Request and Recommendation:

   In the past three reviews conducted of the SHU at the Cape Vincent CF, only one individual was found to have accepted programming.[8] Given these findings, the Justice Center requests DOCCS Central Office complete an analysis of the programming offered, why individuals are refusing, what they are choosing to do instead, and the conduciveness of the location of the programming to determine why no one accepts programming at the Cape Vincent CF. In addition, DOCCS should consider increasing and expanding incentives to encourage program attendance and offer the opportunity for classroom programming to foster engagement. Out of cell programming can help develop coping skills and assist in behavioral modification to avoid future disciplinary sanctions.

4. **Incarcerated individuals do not have access to the Law Library tablet and the manuals for each unit should be updated to reflect this change.**

   The Justice Center is aware that incarcerated individuals do not have access Law Library tablets, due to it no longer supporting the West Law application. In

[7] No recreation participation in the SHU and GC-R occurred on May 1, 2026, May 3, 2026, May 4, 2026, May 5, 2026, May 6, 2026, May 20, 2026, and May 25, 2026.
[8] November 3, 2023, and January 21, 2025, Final Reports. The GPRU did not exist at that time.

lieu of the Law Library Tablet, individuals are offered access to information and services through regularly scheduled law library and legal mail rounds, conducted by facility staff. A review of the logbooks for the period of December 21, 2025, to January 8, 2026, demonstrated that law library or legal mail rounds were made eight times.

According to the SHU Incarcerated Individual Orientation Manual, "Law Library Tablets can be requested from the rounds officer from 9:00 am- 9:00 pm. Law Library Tablets will be collected no later than 9 pm to be recharged on the charging cart." Per the GPRU Incarcerated Individual Orientation Handbook, "Law Library Tablets can be requested from the rounds officer during the 7:00 am go around by the officers. Law Library Tablets will be issued when requested and collected no later than 9 p.m. to be placed on the charging cart."

Request and Recommendation:

Per the DOCCS response on December 11, 2025, to the Justice Center's Washington CF Report, facilities may begin allowing incarcerated individuals to maintain their general population personal tablets in disciplinary housing units with appropriate restrictions. The Justice Center is aware that the West Law application is functional on the personal tablets. Please provide an update on the status of allowing personal tablets in disciplinary housing units at the Cape Vincent CF.

Additionally, the Justice Center recommends that Cape Vincent CF executive staff review the SHU and GPRU incarcerated individual orientation manuals and update them to reflect that the Law Library tablets are no longer available.

5. **There were no incarcerated individuals who accepted private interviews during the Justice Center's site visit.**

6. **The Justice Center received four programming and recreation surveys out of the 12 that were distributed to incarcerated individuals at the Cape Vincent CF.**

   According to the survey responses received, all four individuals reported that they are never offered program, so they have never attended. Only one person reported that there was no program due to "staff shortage". That same individual indicated that when programming does occur, it happens in the morning and afternoon for four to six hours. All individuals reported that there is no one that encourages programming attendance, while two individuals noted that they don't know who provides programming. One individual responded that they would like to be able to attend programming because it "takes up my time" and they would like to learn about welding and auto maintenance.

   All of the respondents noted that they have access to their tablets daily for at least six hours. They also recorded that they have the opportunity to attend

recreation daily in the morning for less than two hours. The most they chose to attend is two to three days per week because "it is cold" and "don't like to mingle with others". Lastly, two individuals liked congregate recreation, although only one noted that they attend group recreation. Another preferred to have recreation alone.

Special Populations:

7. **At the time of the Justice Center's visit, there was not anyone under the age of 21, over the age of 55, pregnant or with any disability in the SHU.**

Length of time spent in segregated confinement:

8. **All incarcerated individuals in the SHU at the time of the Justice Center's site visit were held for less than 15-consecutive days or 20 days in a 60-day period in segregated confinement.**

9. **At the time of the Justice Center's site visit, individuals on the Justice Center's sample in the SHU had been remanded to the Cape Vincent CF SHU for an average of approximately seven days.**

   The Justice Center's SHU sample consisted of 11 incarcerated individuals.[9] According to records received by the Justice Center, these 11 individuals had spent an average of approximately seven days in SHU between their admission date and the Justice Center's site visit. The least amount of time spent in SHU was three days and the most amount of time spent in SHU was 11 days.

   Request:

   Please provide the Justice Center with an update on all incarcerated individuals in the review sample. This update should include the individual's current MHSL, housing status, current confinement sanctions and the dates they transferred out of the Cape Vincent CF SHU.

Hearings and procedures:

10. **According to training records received by the Justice Center, 14 staff are up to date on the Tier III Hearing Officer training.**

11. **According to the Tier Hearing materials received by the Justice Center, all hearings were completed within the guidelines outlined in the HALT Act**

[9] The Justice Center's SHU sample included: [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]), [redacted] ([redacted]), and [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]).

and determined that no incarcerated individuals had requested representation for their hearing.

12. **Upon review of Tier Hearing materials for the 12 incarcerated individuals in the Justice Center's review sample at the Cape Vincent CF, it was determined that all infractions met the criteria justifying Tier III confinement and had engaged in behaviors that warranted placed, including altered item, weapon, assault on staff and assault on incarcerated individual.**

13. **Incarcerated individual 1 was pending their hearing for an incident that occurred on January 7, 2026.**[10]

    According to the individual's Disciplinary Incident Summary, they received a Tier III ticket while at Cape Vincent CF for violent conduct, assault on inmate, and weapon, after security staff investigated a reported assault, which identified that the individual assaulted another incarcerated individual with a "cutting type weapon."[11]

    Request:

    Please provide the Justice Center with incarcerated individual 1's Tier III disciplinary packet for January 7, 2026, for review. In addition, please provide the individual's housing status, current confinement sanctions and the date they transferred out of the Cape Vincent CF SHU.

14. **Incarcerated individual 2 was designated as SHU cell ineligible**.[12]

    Incarcerated individual 2, born in 1997, received a Tier III ticket for contraband and smuggling on December 23, 2025, after they were found to have marijuana on their person. The hearing packet indicates that the individual was "SHU cell ineligible", but the reason for this is unclear. The packet also indicates that there was no need for mental health or intellectual capacity assessment. Per the Suicide Prevention Screening Guidelines, completed on January 2, 2026, the individual was admitted into the SHU on that date. The individual was housed in the GPRU at the time of the Justice Center's site visit.

    Request:

    The Justice Center is requesting the criteria for which the individual was designated SHU cell ineligible and whether they spent any time in the SHU after January 2, 2026.

[10] [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]) is hereinafter referred to as incarcerated individual 1.
[11] Unusual Incident System Log for incident dated January 7, 2026.
[12] [redacted] (DIN #: [redacted]) is hereinafter referred to as incarcerated individual 2.

If the individual was determined to never have been placed in SHU, DOCCS should retrain personnel responsible when completing the Suicide Prevention Screening Guidelines to ensure the accurate location is documented for disciplinary confinement statuses.

Assessments and rehabilitation plans, procedures, and discharge determinations:

15. **The Justice Center determined that a DOCCS Suicide Prevention Screening Guidelines #3152 was conducted with all individuals upon their admission to disciplinary confinement at the Cape Vincent CF.**

Review conducted by:
Stephanie Diamond, Facility Review Specialist

NEW YORK STATE | Office of Mental Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner

June 29, 2026

Jody Signoracci
Deputy Director of Outreach, Prevention and Support
Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs
161 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, New York 12054

Dear Ms. Signoracci:

We received your letter dated 6/25/26, in response to the Justice Center's 1/14/26 site visit of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility (CF) Special Housing Unit (SHU) and General Population Restricted Unit (GPRU) to review the quality of mental health care provided to incarcerated individuals and determine compliance with the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) legislation, the Office of Mental Health's (OMH) policies, and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's (DOCCS) directives.

Though there were no recommendations made for OMH, a request was made for Finding #9 to provide the Justice Center with the current Mental Health Service Level (MHSL) of all incarcerated individuals from the Cape Vincent CF sample. All individuals remain a MHSL 6. OMH defers to DOCCS for the remaining information requested.

Sincerely,

Li-Wen Lee, M.D.
Associate Commissioner
Division of Forensic Services

cc: Danielle Dill, Psy.D., Executive Director, CNYPC
William Vertoske, Deputy Director, Corrections Based Operations, CNYPC
File

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor
DANIEL F. MARTUSCELLO III
Commissioner

July 20, 2026

Jody Signoracci
Deputy Director, Office of Outreach, Prevention & Support
NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs
161 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054

Cape Vincent Correctional Facility
Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) Act
DRAFT Compliance and Quality of Care Review
JC#: 77010183778

Dear Deputy Director Signoracci:

This is in response to the New York State Justice Center's visit at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility on January 14, 2026, to review the quality of corrections-based mental health programs, treatment, and conditions of confinement for incarcerated individuals placed in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) and General Population Restricted Unit (GPRU) in that facility in accordance with the HALT Legislation, OMH policies, and DOCCS Directives.

1. There were no incarcerated individuals participating in out-of-cell programming or recreation at the time of the Justice Center's tour of the SHU.

2. There were no incarcerated individuals participating in out-of-cell programming or recreation at the time of the Justice Center's tour of the GPRU.

3. Request and Recommendation:

In the past three reviews conducted of the SHU at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility, only one individual was found to have accepted programming. Given these findings, the Justice Center requests DOCCS central office complete an analysis of the programming offered, why individuals are refusing, what they are choosing to do instead, and the conduciveness of the location of the programming to determine why no one accepts programming at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility. In addition, DOCCS should consider increasing and expanding incentives to encourage program attendance and offer the opportunity for classroom programming to foster engagement. Out-of-cell programming can help develop coping skills and assist in behavioral modification to avoid future disciplinary sanctions.

Lastly, please provide the Justice Center with the current SHU and GPRU program schedule and all programming attendance for the month of May 2026.

Response:

At Cape Vincent Correctional Facility, our administration continues to emphasize the benefits of rehabilitative and therapeutic programming in SHU to all staff. Incarcerated individuals in SHU are encouraged by ORC and security staff during the 7 a.m. Go-Rounds to participate daily in out-of-cell programming and work on identifying the behaviors that led to their disciplinary confinement and take necessary steps to engage in behavior modification. Cape Vincent Correctional Facility security staff are instructed to make sure they get a verbal response from the incarcerated individual before moving on to the next cell in SHU and GPRU. Programming is offered daily in both housing units, but attendance is not mandatory, and incarcerated individuals can refuse and are not obligated to provide a reason.

All the incentives provided are standardized and approved by central office to provide consistency in all therapeutic programs statewide.

In regard to your inquiry about the conduciveness of the program location for SHU/GPRU at Cape Vincent Correctional Facility, it is to be noted that the C-wing is the only location in the SHU building large enough to accommodate programming.

We have attached for your review the current SHU/GPRU program schedule and all programming attendance records for May 2026.

4. Request and Recommendation:

Per the DOCCS response on December 11, 2025, to the Justice Center's Washington Correctional Facility report, facilities may begin allowing incarcerated individuals to maintain their general population personal tablets in disciplinary housing units with appropriate restrictions. The Justice Center is aware that the West Law Application is functional on the personal tablets. Please provide an update on the status of allowing personal tablets in disciplinary housing units at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility.

Additionally, the Justice Center recommends that Cape Vincent Correctional Facility executive staff review the SHU and GPRU incarcerated individual orientation manuals and update them to reflect that the Law Library tablets are no longer available.

Response:

Regarding your inquiry about incarcerated individuals using their personal tablets in the disciplinary housing units, this is still being piloted in a few facilities but has not yet been implemented throughout all DOCCS facilities.

The SHU and GPRU I/I manuals are currently under revision to reflect that the Law Library tablets are no longer available.

5. There were no incarcerated individuals who accepted private interviews during the Justice Center's site visit.

6. The Justice Center received four (4) programming and recreation surveys out of the 12 that were distributed to incarcerated individuals at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility.

7. At the time of the Justice Center's visit, there was not anyone under the age of 21, over the age of 55, pregnant or with any disability in the SHU.

8. All incarcerated individuals in the SHU at the time of the Justice Center's site visit were held for less than 15-consecutive days or 20 days in a 60-day period in segregated confinement.

9. Request:

Please provide the Justice Center with an update on all incarcerated individuals in the review sample. This update should include the individual's current MHSL, housing status, current confinement sanctions and the dates they transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU.

Response:

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Mid-State Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 27, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Wallkill Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 27, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Wyoming Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 20, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) was assigned an OMH Level 6 and was discharged from DOCCS custody at Wyoming Correctional Facility on July 2, 2026. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 29, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Groveland Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 23, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Wyoming Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 20, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently programming in RRU at Gouverneur Correctional Facility with confinement sanctions expiring on December 14, 2026. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 16, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Riverview Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 27, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently programming in RRU at Cayuga Correctional Facility with confinement sanctions expiring on August 30, 2026. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 29, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Cayuga Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 27, 2026.

Incarcerated individual [redacted] ([redacted]) is assigned an OMH Level 6 and is currently housed in general population at Woodbourne Correctional Facility with no current confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU on January 30, 2026.

10. According to training records received by the Justice Center, 14 staff are up-to date on the Tier III Hearing Officer training.

11. According to the Tier Hearing materials received by the Justice Center, all hearings were completed within the guidelines outlined in the HALT Act and were determined that no incarcerated individuals had requested representation for their hearing.

12. Upon review of the Tier Hearing materials for the 12 incarcerated individuals in the Justice Center's review sample at the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility, it was determined that all infractions met the criteria justifying Tier III confinement.

13. Request:

Please provide the Justice Center with incarcerated individual 1 [redacted] ([redacted]) Tier III disciplinary packet for January 7, 2026, for review. In addition, please provide the individual's housing status, current confinement sanctions and the date they transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility SHU.

Response:

Please see attached for your review the disciplinary packet for incarcerated individual 1 [redacted] ([redacted]) for the misbehavior report dated January 7, 2026. Incarcerated individual 1 is currently housed in general population at Wallkill Correctional Facility with no current

confinement sanctions. They were transferred out of the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility's SHU to Gouverneur Correctional Facility's RRU on January 22, 2026.

14. Request:

The Justice Center is requesting the criteria for which the individual was designated SHU cell ineligible and whether they spent any time in the SHU after January 2, 2026.

If the individual was determined to never have been placed in SHU, DOCCS should retrain personnel responsible when completing the Suicide Prevention Screening Guidelines to ensure the accurate location is documented for disciplinary confinement statuses.

Response:

Incarcerated individual 2 [redacted] ([redacted]) was originally placed into SHU on January 2, 2026 (SH-0A-008), then transferred on the same day to GPRU (GP-0B-018) immediately after staff realized he was ineligible for SHU placement due to a BETA score of 69. They did not spend any additional time in the SHU after January 2, 2026. Our administration will re-train security staff on the importance of ensuring the accuracy of location for disciplinary confinement statuses.

15. The Justice Center determined that DOCCS Suicide Prevention Screening Guidelines #3152 was conducted with all individuals upon their admission to disciplinary confinement at the Cape Vincent Correctional.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your report. I look forward to continuing to work productively with the Justice Center to improve the services for our population.

Sincerely,

James Donahue
Associate Commissioner

cc: Thomas Gee, Superintendent - Cape Vincent Correctional Facility
Stephanie Diamond, Facility Review Specialist, NYS Justice Center