

Scott Walker
Governor

Gary H. Hamblin
Secretary



Mailing Address

3099 E. Washington Ave.
Post Office Box 7925
Madison, WI 53707-7925
Telephone (608) 240-5000
Fax (608) 240-3300

State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

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Contact: Linda Eggert or Tim Le Monds
Media Line 608-240-3737

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waupun Correctional Officers Prevent Inmate Suicide Quick Action by Officers Thwarts Suicide Attempt

WAUPUN, Wis—Professional and quick action by Correctional staff at Waupun Correctional Institution (WCI) is being credited with thwarting a suicide attempt and saving an inmate's life.

A 29 year old inmate last week tried to hang himself by tying a sheet around his neck and throwing himself off a second floor railing inside a housing unit. Three WCI Correctional officers quickly responded to the scene, pulling the inmate off the railing while a second inmate standing below on the first floor held up his legs to alleviate the pressure on the inmate's neck.

The 29 year old man was safely rescued and is undergoing additional mental health treatment.

Correctional Officer Kelly Beasley, Lt. Robert Rymarkiewicz and Sgt. Chad Baumann responded to the emergency and prevented the inmate's suicide attempt.

“This was a serious suicide attempt that could have had tragic results had the officers not responded so quickly and decisively,” said WCI Warden William Pollard. “There is no doubt that their concerted effort to rescue this inmate saved his life. This is an example of how dedicated our officers are to the health and wellbeing of their colleagues and to the inmates they supervise.”

At the Department of Corrections, Correctional Officers must go through a seven week Pre Service Training Academy before beginning their duties in an institution or correctional center. In addition, Correctional Officers complete 2 hours of suicide prevention training each year.

Mental illness continues to be a serious problem inside Wisconsin correctional institutions, with nearly one third of all Wisconsin inmates being treated for some sort of mental health problem. The treatment and the care of mentally ill inmates is a top priority for the DOC.

WCI is a maximum security institution which houses 1,240 inmates.