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DOCCS' Shock Program Reaches Over 50,000 Graduates

Alternative To Incarceration Program Saves The State \$1.5 Billion Since Inception

ALBANY – The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) announced today that over 50,000 inmates have now graduated from the Shock Incarceration Program, an alternative to conventional incarceration program that rehabilitates offenders and has saved state taxpayers over a billion dollars.

Today, Lakeview Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility, in Chautauqua County, graduated a class of 34 inmates who successfully completed the six month program that prepares drug and other non-violent offenders for early parole release consideration. The alternative to incarceration program was established by enabling legislation in July 1987 and since has graduated 50,193 men and women.

All Shock participants are engaged in comprehensive life skills programs that include academic education, group counseling, intensive alcohol and substance abuse treatment, physical training, drill instruction and work crews. Shock provides 108 hours of substance abuse treatment and education in each six-month session.

“The Shock Incarceration Program’s success can be attributed to the well-trained and dedicated staff the facilities have to offer, and the support of the forward thinking individuals who created the program 28 years ago. I am grateful for the ongoing commitment made to the program and proud to see such positive results everyday,” said Acting DOCCS Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci.

Since 2009, the Parole Board has approved approximately 80% of the successful Shock graduates. Shock graduates serving determinate sentences are conditionally released without a Parole Board appearance, once they complete the Shock program. Upon graduating most of these participants are supervised in the community by parole officers.

In a recent three year recidivism study that tracked 3,087 shock graduates, 28% returned to DOCCS for either a new felony conviction or violating parole. This is a reduction of one-third from the overall statewide recidivism rate of 40%.

As of the end of November 2015, there were 728 inmates participating in the Shock Program: 624 men and 104 women. Shock has saved state taxpayers \$1.495 billion since its inception. The savings are a result of keeping the non-violent offenders out of the general population of the state’s 54 prisons with sentence reductions of thirty months or less.

Currently there are two Shock facilities, Moriah (Essex County), and Lakeview Shock (Chautauqua County).

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