



Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

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Governor

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AGENCY NAME: NYS Justice Center For the Protection of People with Special Needs

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DELIVERABLES ACHIEVED SINCE 2021

- [Agency Website](#)

The Justice Center’s Transparency Plan outlined a robust strategy for increasing understanding of agency operations and processes. The agency has relied heavily on its website to publish materials related to this initiative. Since plan publication, the Justice Center expanded the data available in its Monthly and Annual Reports, both of which are available on the agency’s website. Several key data points are now broken down by State Oversight Agency. These include case outcomes and investigation categories. In addition, data was expanded to include the Three Business Day Review process and discipline outcomes. The agency has also expanded the types of reports and information available on the website including information on committees and boards run by the agency, their members, and meeting dates.

- [Agency Reports](#)

The Justice Center understands the importance of providing the public with detailed information on its work. The agency publishes a vast array of reports and materials to help the public better understand the many avenues pursued in the mission to keep vulnerable individuals protected from harm.

In 2021, newly enacted legislation known as Humane Alternatives to Long Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) strictly limited the amount of time that inmates in state prisons can spend in solitary confinement and increased requirements around services and treatment available to inmates. Under this new law, the Justice Center was charged with an expanded role as a compliance monitor and was required to issue an annual report related to this work. The Justice Center published its first HALT Annual Report in the Spring of 2023, outlining the first nine months of work under the HALT Act. In addition to this new statutorily required report related to the agency’s forensic work, the Justice Center now shares information with the public regarding the on-going reviews it undertakes in state correctional facilities. Specifically, the agency now publishes systemic reviews performed at multiple facilities and single facility reviews regarding compliance related to segregated confinement and quality of mental health care in prisons. To date, nearly two dozen single and multiple facility reviews have been published to the website with more in production.

Further, to make all of this information more easily accessible, [all reports issued by the agency are housed on a “Reports” webpage with clear filters for ease of use.](#)



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- Open Data NY

With the understanding that Open Data NY serves as a “one stop shop” to make data easily accessible to the public, the Justice Center identified data that could be searched and posted it to the public database. The agency identified four key data points that are relevant for Open Data NY:

- Number of reports made to the Justice Center by month
- Case closure outcomes by month
- Number of criminal background checks by month
- Number of Staff Exclusion List checks by month

This data is updated on Open Data NY on a quarterly basis. The Justice Center plans to add two additional data sets in 2024.

INITIATIVES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

- Expanded Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

The Justice Center recognizes the value of offering opportunities for stakeholders and the public to interact with and hear directly from agency leadership and is implementing new avenues of outreach. This year, the agency plans to expand its annual Summit by offering new topics for attendees. Sessions include information on the case lifecycle, Justice Center updates, and abuse prevention: reducing risk and improving quality of care. The Justice Center is using new marketing strategies to invite broader audiences to attend this free event. Additionally, the agency is producing take-away materials with information about the Justice Center for all attendees.

The Justice Center is also expanding opportunities to collaborate with our union partners. Agency leadership continues to keep the lines of communication with union leaders open and offers to conduct events directly with union members under the agency’s jurisdiction. This gives the workforce direct access to Justice Center Executive Team members. The Justice Center is also expanding its work with State Agency partners. The agency has formed a workgroup with OPWDD after receiving feedback during roundtables held in 2023. The taskforce is developing initiatives that will alleviate redundancies and burdens on providers. The agency will work with providers to solicit feedback and adjust course as needed.

- Data Governance and Publication

The Justice Center’s core work produces a wealth of data about incidents of abuse and neglect which is of interest to the public. To ensure integrity in this data and to help the public better understand it, the Justice Center is undertaking an agency-wide data



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governance and quality initiative to improve operations and external stakeholder outcomes. The initiative will increase quality of agency data for greater public consumption. Data dictionaries will be developed to standardized definitions of data sets to help stakeholders at all levels both understand Justice Center data sets and compare them. Once complete, the agency will work to identify high confidence data sets that can be released in its data reports in the coming months and years.