



# BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

**For Immediate Release:**

July 1, 2026

**Contact Emmanuel Priest**

607-778-2437

[emmanuel.priest@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:emmanuel.priest@broomecountyny.gov)

## **BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE**

### **Broome County Sheriff's Office Expands Partnership with ACBC to Provide Additional Services at the Broome County Correctional Facility**

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) Addiction services, programming and counseling for incarcerated individuals continues to expand at the Broome County Correctional Facility.

On Wednesday, July 1, 2026, the Broome County Sheriff's Office joined representatives from the Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) and the BCSO Reentry Reform Advisory Task Force to announce an expanded partnership to deliver addiction support, therapy, counseling and other services for those who find themselves incarcerated the Broome County Correctional Facility.

Starting at the end of July 2026, ACBC will be deploying two peer advocates and one clinician to offer daily group therapy, individual counseling and assistance with release preparation in coordination with the facility medical provider and the BCCF Discharge Team.

The clinical services provided by ACBC will include trauma-specific interventions and cognitive behavior therapies. The peer advocates, one male and one female, will focus on working with incarcerated individuals throughout the facility, offering support as persons with lived experience and building skills for stabilization upon return to the community.

Clinicians are licensed mental health and substance use professionals who hold a graduate degree in social work, counseling, psychology or human services and provide specialized and community-based services for individuals struggling with addiction and/or mental health disorders.

Certified Recovery Peer Advocates are individuals with a combination of professional training and lived experience with substance abuse, who uses their experiential knowledge to support the recovery goals of individuals who use drugs and/or alcohol. Peers are natural support experts, meaning that the relationships they establish can lead to increased feelings of support, safety, and well-being among the individuals they serve.

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**General Information:**  
(607) 778-1911

**Fiscal:**  
(607) 778-2928

**Garnishees:**  
(607) 778-2926

**Civil:**  
(607) 778-2145

**Identification:**  
(607) 778-2924

**Records:**  
(607) 778-2166

In 2025, working with one peer advocate and one part-time clinician, ACBC completed 138 jail assessments, facilitating 37 referrals to treatment and reducing the number of days individuals spent in the facility. With additional staff, ACBC seeks to substantially expand the number of individuals receiving assistance within the facility.

“With an estimated 80% of individuals in the Broome County Correctional Facility having a substance use disorder, ACBC is very excited to expand substance use disorder treatment services at the Broome County Correctional Facility,” said ACBC Executive Director Carmela Pirich. “This award includes introducing a clinician to offer daily evidence-based treatment groups and two certified recovery peer advocates, who will support individuals who are incarcerated not just while they are in the facility, but when they are leaving and re-entering the community. Peer support will include helping individuals to ensure that they have clothing, assistance with securing housing, and get quickly connected to community services.”

Funding for the additional clinician and peer advocates will be sourced from the BCCF Commissary account at no additional cost to taxpayers for the remainder of 2026. In the future, funding for these positions will be incorporated into the Broome County Sheriff’s Office Budget.

“We continue to see the positive results of investing our time and resources into Responsible Reentry, to help ensure that time spent within the Broome County Correctional Facility is productive, leads to better outcomes, and helps build a stronger, safer community for our families,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “ACBC, along with our coordinated volunteers, community partners and facility Discharge Team have done an outstanding job bringing new hope and opportunity to those who find themselves incarcerated, and with this additional help, we will see additional progress.”

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