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## State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

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### **Correctional Officers and Health Staff Touted for lifesaving efforts**

*Use of team work, good decision-making helps save inmate's life*

**Black River Falls, Wis.** – A sergeant, two officers and three nurses at Jackson Correctional Institution (JCI) are being touted for their combined coordination efforts in saving the life of an inmate.

On March 31, Sgt. Brian Meshun and Officers Denise Olson and Kathie Boehm worked collaboratively with an inmate who, after running during his outside recreation time, returned to his unit and informed the sergeant he was not feeling well. He reported having chest pains and asked to walk to the institution's health services unit so he could be evaluated by medical staff.

After a brief discussion between the sergeant and officers, it was determined that the inmate's condition was serious enough that he should not walk to the health unit but rather required an immediate escort by wheelchair. After being transported to the health unit, the inmate collapsed without a pulse and stopped breathing.

CPR was initiated immediately and shock from an AED was delivered while an ambulance was dispatched. Shortly thereafter the inmate and the inmate's pulse resumed and he began to breathe on his own. JCI's health staff continued medical care until the patient was turned over to Black River EMS.

The nurses involved with the event were Carla Griggs, Cheryl Marsolek and Carol Middleton.

Griggs previously worked for an agency that provides medical services for St. Croix Correctional Center and was at JCI in that capacity on March 31. She has been a nurse for 11 years and this was the first time a patient had "coded" in her presence. Marsolek and Middleton are both experienced emergency room nurses, which likely aided in the rapid and necessary response that aided in the inmate's recovery.

The inmate was transported to Black River Memorial Hospital for evaluation and treatment. He was later transferred to Luther Middlefort Hospital in Eau Claire. The inmate's condition is reported currently as stable.

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