



## **Media Release**

May 8, 2015

### **Fifth Security Member Attacked at Central New York Psychiatric Center**

#### ***Third Serious Assault to Occur in Past Two Weeks***

**Marcy, NY** - A Security Hospital Treatment Assistant (SHTA) at Central New York Psychiatric Center was taken to a local hospital for facial, back and neck injuries after an inmate at the center attacked him this past Sunday.

On May 3, approximately 8:35 PM, the inmate charged out of a room on the sixth floor ward and attacked the security member. The inmate punched the security member in the face knocking him to the floor.

Other SHTA's were able to intervene and restrain the inmate before he could continue the attack.

The SHTA was transported to the local emergency room where he received treatment for small facial lacerations, a contusion to his eye, and back and neck injuries.

He was treated and released later that evening.

A complaint was filed with the New York State Police and they are investigating.

This latest assault comes on the heels of recent attacks on staff.

Four security members were injured in two separate assaults since April 21. One security member was almost choked "out" by an inmate while another sustained a concussion after an inmate punched him repeatedly in the head after the security member had been knocked to the floor.

"We now stand at Forty-Eight assaults at Central New in just over 30 days. Many of those staff members have needed hospital treatment as a result of the attacks and have been unable to return to work.

We will continue to communicate our concerns to the administration at the Office of Mental Health until appropriate measures are taken to safeguard our members. As we have seen this week, without significant changes, which includes prosecuting inmates who attack staff, the assaults will continue,” stated John Harmon, NYSOPBA Law Enforcement Vice President.

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