



## **Media Release**

July 21, 2015

# **Security Officer and Social Worker Injured in Separate Assaults at Central New York Psychiatric Center**

## ***Officer Choked by Inmate, Social Worker Sustains Concussion***

**Marcy, NY** – A Security Hospital Treatment Assistant (SHTA) was choked by an inmate last week and a social worker sustained a concussion in two separate assaults at Central New York Psychiatric Center (CNYPC).

The first incident occurred on Monday, July 13 at 7:15AM. An inmate on high level supervision, was being escorted back to his room when he became argumentative with the SHTA. The SHTA attempted to counsel the inmate when he suddenly started to attack the SHTA. A struggle ensued and the inmate was able to get around the SHTA and place a choke hold on the SHTA. The inmate and SHTA fell to the floor as the choke hold was still applied. Another SHTA responded to the scene and tried to remove the inmate's arm from around the neck of the SHTA but was unsuccessful.

Additional staff responded and were able to get the inmate off the SHTA.

The SHTA sustained injuries to his neck, elbow and shoulder. He received outside medical treatment for his injuries.

The State Police were notified of the incident.

The second incident occurred two days later at approximately 1:30 PM. An inmate, unprovoked, attacked a social worker at the facility, punching her several times in the face. An SHTA intervened in the incident and restrained the inmate.

The social worker was treated at St. Luke's Hospital and was diagnosed with a concussion. She was treated and released from the hospital.

Two SHTAs sustained minor injuries subduing the inmate.

"The assaults continue on our members on a daily basis, yet OMH continues to neglect the safety of our SHTAs. In the past several months we have had SHTAs attacked and injured by inmate patients and many of those attacked were hospitalized or needed treatment at a local hospital. We have voiced the need to enact the peace officer legislation that was passed by State Legislature and signed by the Governor, yet the commissioner continues to say they will not implement it. The peace officer status will give SHTAs the adequate level of training necessary to manage a violent and dangerous inmate patient population. This is similar to the assaults our sister and brother correction officers are subjected to at correctional facilities across the state. Without that, our members will continue to be assaulted daily and that is simply not acceptable to me", stated John Harmon, NYSCOPBA Vice President of Law Enforcement.

### **Contact**

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