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For Immediate Release

Security Staff Injured by Patient

Patient Violently Attacked Staff Member at Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center

New Hampton , NY —A patient who had requested to go outside several times, violently attacked a Security Hospital Treatment Assistant (SHTA) when he was escorted to the outside grounds of the psychiatric facility.

The incident occurred on Thursday, April 14, at approximately 12:00PM. The patient had requested to go outside several times. Two staff members escorted him outside for a fresh air break. The patient did not have restraints on him during the escort.

Once outside, the patient struck the SHTA several times in the face. The force of the assault caused the SHTA's eyeglasses to break into several pieces. He sustained two lacerations just under his left eye. (see photo attached)

Once the patient was restrained and brought back inside the facility, the SHTA was transported to Orange County Regional Medical Center for treatment.

The SHTA received eight stitches to close the lacerations. He did not return to work.

The SHTA filed a police report.

Mid-Hudson is one of four forensic psychiatric centers in the state. The SHTA's are responsible for providing a safe and secure therapeutic environment for the facility that holds inmate patients. On average one SHTA is directly assaulted by an inmate patient per day.

"Our staff members are being assaulted at a record pace yet OMH will not take any measures to reduce the violence inside the psychiatric centers or protect our members. They are not mandated by New York State to compile staff assault statistics as DOCCS is and that allows them to continue to push the rising violence against staff members under the rug. We have been advocating for peace officer status for our members for several years now, as well as other policy changes that will make it safer for our members. As usual, the Commissioner of OMH will not make the safety of staff a priority", stated John Harmon, Law Enforcement Vice President.