The Joint Commission's Sentinel Event Alert #59: Physical and verbal violence against healthcare workers

7 Actions suggested by The Joint Commission and how HSS & TEAM can help you accomplish them:

1. Clearly define workplace violence and put systems into place across the organization that enable staff to report workplace violence incidents, including verbal violence.

   TEAM has been developed to support learning outcomes which are designed to guide staff on how their actions, reactions and behaviors can affect the interaction with patients, and others who display behavior.

2. Recognize that data can come from several sources. Capture, track, and trend all reports of workplace violence.

   TEAM emphasizes the importance of reporting all incidents of violence, including verbal violence. With 70% of all violence in hospitals going unreported, TEAM discusses the types of incidents that are happening, and some of the barriers to reporting along with how to overcome those challenges.

3. Provide appropriate follow-up and support victims, witnesses, and other affected by the violence.

   TEAM has a debrief process that details how to support those involved in violent incidents.

4. Review each case of workplace violence to determine contributing factors.

   TEAM Provides After Event Documentation forms to help the facility properly develop a plan after the event occurs.

5. Develop quality improvement initiatives to reduce incidents of workplace violence.

   TEAM/HSS offers programs including risk assessments of hospitals to help them better meet the safety needs of their employees.

6. Train all staff, including security, in de-escalation, self-defense, and response to emergency codes.

   TEAM is the most effective healthcare-specific workplace violence prevention program available, and it meets the very latest compliance requirements.

7. Evaluate workplace violence reduction initiatives by regularly reviewing incidents, analyzing trends, surveying workers, tracking if recommendations were completed, keep looking for new strategies, and partnering with local law enforcement or a consultant.

HSS's consulting services provide whole hospital solutions including de-escalation training, systems integration, active shooter training, and many other resources to improve the safety of your facility. For more information, please contact Seth Karnes with HSS.