



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Annie Wiest, Executive Director
Association of Occupational Health
Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP)
125 Warrendale Bayne Road, Suite 375
Warrendale, PA 15086
a.wiest@kamo-ms.com
800-362-4347

AOHP Provides Public Comments to OSHA Regarding Workplace Violence

The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) recently responded to a Request for Information (RFI) from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding its potential development of a workplace violence (WPV) standard.

OSHA, which already has guidelines for preventing WPV in the healthcare and social service sectors, published the request to determine whether a standard should now be developed. In issuing the RFI, OSHA explained that WPV resulting in employee injury in these two industries is more than four times higher than in all other private sector industries, according to 2014 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Psychiatric hospitals have incidence rates over 64 times higher than in private industry as a whole. Nursing and residential care facilities have WPV-related injuries 11 times higher than those for the entire private industry.

"AOHP has been concerned about escalating WPV events in healthcare, which are too often viewed as 'part of the job,'" explains AOHP Executive President Mary Bliss, RN, COHN. "We have addressed this topic in our public policy statements since 2013, and we support implementing comprehensive WPV programs that are risk specific to each healthcare organization or facility."

In its April 4 response to OSHA, AOHP presented feedback on the definition and scope of WPV, as well as the components of proactive WPV programs. AOHP advocates for an effective plan to include a written program, management commitment, employee participation, hazard identification, safety and health training, and hazard prevention, control and reporting. To support other WPV prevention efforts, AOHP participated in the development of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) online education program *WVP for Nurses*. And, the association provides education on all aspects of WPV to members through its national conference, educational programs and via the quarterly *AOHP Journal*.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace. OSHA's mission is to ensure safe and healthful workplaces by developing guidelines and enforcing standards, which includes the RFI process to seek input from interested stakeholders. AOHP, as a defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare, has submitted comments to OSHA on a variety of standards.

AOHP is a national association with about 1,000 members who serve as leaders in championing the vital role of occupational health professionals in healthcare. Through active member involvement at local, state and national levels, AOHP represents tens of thousands of healthcare workers throughout the nation. AOHP advocates for employee health and safety, provides occupational health education and networking opportunities, offers health and safety advancement through best practice and research, and partners with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations.

For more information, please call AOHP Headquarters at 800-362-4347, or e-mail info@aohp.org.

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