

# Keeping People Safe: *Tell Us How You Do It*

The purpose of the annual Negley Awards is to facilitate sharing and recognition of creative, high quality behavioral healthcare practices. This year we request submissions concerning your practices and procedures for ***keeping clients and staff safe as you provide service to potentially violent patients.***

The Gabrielle Giffords and Virginia Tech shootings are just among the latest matters to draw intense media attention to the assessment and treatment of potentially violent behavioral health patients. Recent legislative responses to these kinds of incidents include enactment of “assisted outpatient treatment” laws requiring treatment for persons with a history of violence and treatment non-compliance. Some behavioral healthcare providers now have more patients at serious risk of violence than ever before at a time when funding is being reduced. Because of funding source contracts some behavioral healthcare providers do not have discretion to refuse to take a patient who is at high risk for violence. Thus, in the current environment it is especially important and challenging to have creative, high quality practices in place to deal with the risk of violence.

Despite the media attention to such violent events as the Representative Giffords shooting, lawsuits involving patient acts of violence against another patient are more frequent than lawsuits involving violent acts against others. Violence between patients includes among other things sexual assaults and fights at treatment facilities. While it is industry standard that it is impossible to predict a specific act of violence, researchers have developed and validated a number of actuarial tools to assist the

clinician in assessing the risk of violence. Two examples are the Historical, Clinical, Risk Management-20 (HCR-20) and the Classification of Violence Risk (COVR).

Often litigation arising from violent acts includes allegations corroborated by expert witnesses of deficiencies in the assessment of the risk of violence and the failure to take the appropriate action to intervene.

## ***What Are Your Best Practices?***

Please describe your practices, policies and procedures relating to patients at risk for violence giving special attention to those areas you consider your best practices. How do you assess violence risk? Do you use an actuarial instrument? If so, how and under what circumstances? How do you manage those patients you determine to be at high risk of violence?

Do you have patients who are at risk for violence that you would not otherwise accept but for funding source requirements? What, if any special procedures do you have in place for such patients?

How do you decide on the appropriate intervention and treatment for patients at

risk for violence? Do you have a structured formal or informal process for decision making? If so, please describe it.

Do you have any special procedures for protecting your patients from the physical violence of other patients?

Please describe your state’s law concerning involuntary examination and treatment including but not limited to any duty to protect and alternative outpatient treatment requirements. How do you ensure compliance with these laws? How do you decide whether a specific legal requirement applies to a specific patient?

Do you have any special training programs in place for assessment, treatment and intervention of patients at high risk for violence?

Please attach copies of any relevant policies and forms.

*These awards are sponsored by Negley Associates which has served the insurance needs of behavioral healthcare providers for over three decades. By submitting your entry and documents you are agreeing that they may be published by Negley Associates.*



Application deadline: November 15, 2011

## **2012 Negley Awards Application** **Topic - Keeping People Safe** Please complete both sides of this form.

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Key personnel: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Executive Officer

Program Manager

Board Chairman (or President)

It is agreed that all submissions become the property of the Mental Health Risk Retention Group, Inc. and will be used in the Company's loss prevention program in its discretion including but not limited to publication of the materials submitted.

APPLICANT CORPORATE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete both sides of this form. On a separate sheet, provide a brief description of the history and scope of your organization (limit 200 words). Attach the description and this agreement to narrative and send 15 copies by **Tuesday,**

**November 15, 2011** to:

**2012 Negley Awards**

Mental Healthcare America

1876-A Eider Court, Tallahassee, FL 32308

Questions? Contact *Tara Boyter* ([tboyter@mhca.com](mailto:tboyter@mhca.com) or 850-942-4900)

## Judging Criteria

Programs submitted will be scored based on evidence of the following:

- Availability of data to demonstrate that the intervention or practice has successfully impacted the targeted area of liability exposure for the organization
- Availability of data to demonstrate that the intervention or practice has improved the organization's overall quality of care
- Degree to which the intervention or practice is likely to reduce future liability exposure
- Degree to which the intervention or practice demonstrates adherence to best practice standards, as applicable
- Degree to which the intervention or practice demonstrates a new or creative way of assuring adherence to relevant best practices or otherwise adds to the general knowledge in the field
- Ease with which the intervention or practice could be duplicated in other behavioral health settings

**NEGLEY  
ASSOCIATES**  
UNDERWRITING MANAGERS

### A brief history of the Negley Awards . . .

The Negley Awards were established in 1990 by Negley Associates, underwriting managers for the Mental Health Risk Retention Group. The Awards recognize and reward outstanding achievements in risk management by community behavioral health centers. Winners share their risk management strategies with other behavioral health centers thereby enlightening the greater community. Since the award program's inception, nearly a half-million dollars have been awarded to deserving applicants.



## Application Process

Application deadline is **November 15, 2011**. Applicants must be either (1) a shareholder in the MHRRG, (2) an insured through Negley Associates, (3) a member of MHCA, or (4) a member of the National Council.

**Application essays may not exceed five typed pages, single-sided, double-spaced on standard letter size paper, text size no smaller than 10 pt.** Each organization is limited to one entry per year. President's Award Winner in the previous year is not permitted to apply. Send fifteen (15) copies of the application to 2012 Negley Awards, Mental Healthcare America, 1876-A Eider Court, Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Applications will be reviewed and three winning applications selected by the MHRRG Board of Directors whose decision is final. Three unrestricted cash awards are made: a \$10,000 President's Award, a \$5,000 Chairman's Award, and a \$5,000 Directors' Award.

Winners will present their programs in Clearwater Beach, Florida at MHCA's Winter Conference to be held February 21-24, 2012. They will present a second time at the Annual Conference of the National Council to be held April 15-17 in Chicago, Illinois. Finalist organizations will receive up to \$1,500 to offset the cost of travel expenses to the two conferences.

As a condition of *all entries*, organizations agree that their submissions may be shared among others in the industry at no cost by way of printed or electronic magazine, newspaper or newsletter articles, press releases and verbal presentations. Any names, dates or places should be changed to protect the privacy of clients or individuals as this report/case history will become public information. Centers under the direction of MHRRG Board members are ineligible to participate.

## Keeping People Safe

### 2012 Negley Awards for Excellence in Risk Management



**\$10,000 President's Award**

**\$ 5,000 Chairman's Award**

**\$ 5,000 Directors' Award**