

Activity Packet

NYSNA Convention Workshop: *Strategies for Promoting Staff and Patient Safety in the Midst of A Mental Health Crisis*

Respond to Question #1

Please review and respond to the quote on the below and on the slide. Write your comment in the google doc provided. Does this statement ring true? Why or why not?

“Due to the persistent incapacity of the American state to redistribute from rich taxpayers to impoverished cities, no sustained, significant effort to fight crime at its roots was feasible. As a consequence, state and local governments were left to fight violence on the cheap, with only the inexpensive and punitive tools at their disposal. Thus, the overdevelopment of American penal policy at the local level is the result of the underdevelopment of American social policy at the federal level.”

The Economic Origins of Mass Incarceration, John Clegg and Adaner Usmani , Catalyst, Fall 2018,

Respond to Question #2

Has the COVID-19 crisis had any impact on patient or staff mental health? If yes, how?

Respond to Question #3

How do the risks of violence in your work setting result in increased stress for staff?

Evaluating Strategies

Your small group is the health and safety committee for a hospital. A number of ideas have been put forward for addressing issues arising from patient's unmet mental health needs. Your task is to:

Discuss each proposed measure, listed below, and list some pros and cons for each one. Your pros and cons should be in light of the potential effectiveness of the measure, and what difficulties might be involved, if any, related to its implementation.

More training for nurses

Assigning behavioral health aides to
medsurge and the ED

Specific area of the ED for mental health patient
holds, staffed by behavioral health staff

Deploy advanced practice nurses who are available
to assist with patient mental health needs on medical units

Make more psych services available to patients
In the ED and on medical floors

Only hire nurses with background in martial arts

Action Plan

Choose one of the strategies listed and discussed in the exercise. Sketch out the following action plan:

What specific demands might you make regarding this measure?

What argument might you make?

What specific steps can you take to promote this measure in the coming period of time?