

## **Genesee Valley ENA by Mary Mahler**

On April 24th Rochester General Hospital hosted a community wide Forum on Workplace Violence. This was our first Safety Forum, which was initiated by the ED Unit Council, and was attended by 83 people, who had some safety concerns in our department. Sandi Tetler RN, 2014 President Elect for NYS ENA and Co-author of "Zero Tolerance, a Resource Tool for ER Nurse" inspired the audience to be advocates by reporting any violence issue that occurs. Sandi currently works in Westchester Medical Adult and Pediatric Emergency Department a level one trauma center. She very actively works towards creating positive solutions to decrease workplace violence incidents. Topics of discussion included: assault and battery, mental health, court situations/scenarios, and employee rights. She believes that violence against any staff member is not acceptable and that we need to collaborate with our district attorneys/legislative/medical & nursing administration to gain support. The staff at RGH often encounter situations that can be dangerous and have recently developed an active Workplace Violence Team with the goal to decrease incidences of violent behaviors by creating positive strategies/solutions. One way we can all help is to report an incident to your incident reporting structure as well as to the police. It can then go to legislation to gather statistics. National ENA Facts reported statistics via surveys (2009-2011) that over 50% nurses experiences physical violence. 64% didn't report & 94% reports were not prosecuted.

Our second guest speaker was Bianca D 'Angelo, Assistant District Attorney, and Monroe County District Attorney Office. She discussed what happens when you report a crime and police show up.

There are the many different levels of crime, from low level harassment/ disorderly conduct to Misdemeanors and Felonies. She discussed what to expect when you press charges.

Next was Patrick M. O'Flynn, Sheriff of Monroe County, he completed his master degree with his Thesis which focused on enhancing situational awareness when addressing critical incidents. Sheriff O'Flynn was accompanied by his Lieutenant John, who is head of the SWAT Team and had worked in the Emergency Room at Park Ridge Hospital. He does presentations on Active Shooters and how to act if faced with that situation. With support of the sheriff, they have taken the lead in education for school districts or anywhere they can make an impact. He suggested watching the video: "Run, Hide, Fight" which is available online, and put together by the Houston Police Department. It gives one an idea of what to do when encountering an active shooter.