

PHS working to end violence

The movement is spreading! At Providence, hundreds of staff, physicians and patients have taken this pledge:

"I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others."

Behavioral Health staff are using the campaign to help make the department safer for employees and patients.

"We will be having discussions about nonviolence and circulating materials on the topic," says Anne McNeely, nurse manager in Adult Mental Health and Residential Chemical Dependency at Providence Portland. "The goal is to reduce incidents of violence and verbal outbursts. We want to reduce using restraints or medications to control the behavior of patients." Anne recommends the book, "Creating Sanctuary: Toward the Evolution of Sane Societies," by Sandra L. Bloom, M.D., who writes about how to create a climate of nonviolence, such as by helping patients understand that violence against oneself is violence against the whole community.



Everyone coming to the Department of Medicine Faculty Practice at Providence St. Vincent is exposed to the "Hands" poster and literature about domestic violence. "It's amazing how many people notice the information," says Leslie

Fullmer, department scheduler. "Everyone in the department – all the staff and doctors – take the pledge every year, and we screen every patient for possible domestic violence. We want everyone to know that this is a safe environment to talk about it."

Those who come to the Fresh Air Health & Wellness Fairs Nov. 10 -12 (see article page 4) will see the "Hands" table. "We would like to see a wall in every office and clinic filled with traced hands signed by those who've taken the pledge," says Nancy Seebert, Providence Academy, co-sponsoring the "Hands" table with the Employee Assistance Program.

For details, contact Nancy Seebert at 503-215-5256 or go to www.handsproject.org.