



UNION OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

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Union Calls OSHA Fining of Department of Mental Health (DMH) "A Good First Step"

On Tuesday, the State of California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA) issued a report that fined the State's Department of Mental Health (DMH) \$100,000 for serious worker safety violations at Napa State Hospital.

Speaking on behalf of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists, UAPD President Dr. Stuart Bussey responded: "We are pleased that OSHA has issued these fines against the Department of Mental Health, but frankly, it's not enough. \$100,000 is peanuts compared to a life. But we're optimistic that these fines mean we're on the road to making DMH facilities safe for staff and patients. It's a good first step."

The Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD), an affiliate of AFSCME, is a labor union that represents doctors working inside all Department of Mental Health facilities, including Napa State Hospital.

UAPD is part of the Safety Now! Coalition, an organization of workers demanding safety improvements within DMH facilities. At Napa State Hospital, the group has been promoting changes which include installing a campus-wide alarm system, stationing hospital police officers inside the locked units, and fencing-off unsupervised areas of the 138-acre campus. The OSHA report criticized DMH for failing to provide adequate alarms systems and police presence on the units, among other findings.