Ligature Attachment & Suicide Risk Assessment on Behavioral Health Inpatient Units

Presented by: Kimberly N. McMurray, AIA, EDAC, MBA
Principal Behavioral Health Facility Consulting

Date: October 5, 2018

Introduction

Key Factors for today’s discussion:

1. Patient Safety Risk Assessment
2. Translating Assessment into Design

Published 2008
Reported Methods and Percent for Inpatient Suicides and Suicide Attempts
December 1999- June 2006, N-185

Behavioral Health Thought Leaders

Kimberly McMurray
Principal Behavioral Health Facility Consultants, LLC

Jim Hunt
Founding Principal Behavioral Health Facility Consultants, LLC

Author Design Guide and Sits on TJC Expert Panel

Graphic showing reported methods and percent for inpatient suicides and suicide attempts from December 1999 to June 2006.
Today......
Is Suicide in Hospital’s still a problem?

• 10th leading cause of death in US  (**C**)
• 4th most frequently reviewed Sentinel Event (**C**)
• 50+% of Inpatient Suicides on Psych Units (**C**)
• 90% of these occur in Patient Rooms and Bathrooms (S. Bayramzadeh)
• Expert Panel comprised of CMS, TJC, Healthcare providers, design professionals from across the US.

• Expert Panel 2017 - June 9th, August 18th, October 11th and Dec. 8th

• Panel Recommendations from June and August meetings made public in
  – November 2017 Inpatient,
  – January 2018 Residential and Outpatient, and
  – July 2018 Perspectives.

• Updates continue to be shared in TJC Perspectives
How & Why Behavioral Health Inpatient Unit Design is Different from Medical/Surgical Units

MEDICAL/SURGICAL
- SPEND MAJORITY OF TIME IN PATIENT ROOM
- SLEEP
- EAT MEALS
- SEE DOCTORS/PROVIDERS
- RECEIVE TREATMENT
- VISITORS/FAMILY
- TV / MED EDUCATION

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- SPEND VERY LITTLE TIME IN PATIENT ROOM
- SLEEP

HOW MANY HAZARDS CAN YOU FIND?

WE HAVE IDENTIFIED 8
CAN YOU FIND 12 MORE?

www.fgiguide.org

Behavioral Health Design Guide
February 2018 Edition 7.3
www.bhfelc.com
A. Patient Bedroom & Bathroom

Level IV:

Patient Bedroom

- **Ceiling** — monolithic, tamper-resistant lights, air grilles, fire sprinklers
- **Glazing** — shatter and mar-resistant, no curtains
- **Door** — Barricade-resistant and ligature resistant hardware, over door alarm
- **Furniture** — durable, secured in place, no doors or drawers