

**Madelia Police Chief Teaches Threat Identification and De-Escalation Training at MCHC**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Madelia, Minn.** – Violence against healthcare workers affects facilities of all sizes and in all communities. In an attempt to protect healthcare workers, the 2015 Minnesota Legislature passed a law that amends the hospital licensing requirement and mandates that hospitals design and implement preparedness and incident response plans for acts of violence that occur on their premises, and provide training for their staff. The law also provides funding to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for the training and resources necessary for violence prevention and response.

The Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic (MCHC) has formed a Violence Response Team consisting of staff member from various departments, in response to this recent legislation. The purpose of this team is to:

- Develop preparedness and incident response action plans for acts of violence and review these action plans annually
- Make these action plans available to law enforcement
- Provide all healthcare workers employed or contracted with the hospital with training on safety during acts of violence. This training will be provided annually and when an employee is hired.

As the Violence Response Team began working on the requirements of the law, they decided to call upon the expertise of Madelia Police Chief Rob Prescher.

“When violent persons are encountered here, we rely heavily on the Madelia Police Department for assistance,” said Jen McLaughlin, OR/ER Supervisor, Trauma Program Manager at MCHC. “They understand our needs, and we know what to expect from each other.”

Prescher worked with the team to develop a course on “Threat Identification and De-Escalation Strategies.” The class was based on Prescher’s law enforcement training, and customized for healthcare workers. Two sessions of the course were presented to MCHC staff on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Workers were taught to identify risk, assess risk, and manage risk while avoiding physical confrontations. Prescher’s presentation will also be used to train new staff as they are hired. Additional classes are planned in the future, with an end goal of keeping our patients, visitors and staff safe while they are at MCHC.



**Photo caption: During the recent *Threat Identification and De-Escalation Strategies Course* at MCHC, Madelia Police Chief Rob Prescher and Meghan Gossman, RN, demonstrate what to do during a physical confrontation.**

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#### **About Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic**

Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic is an independent, non-profit facility staffed by a team of physicians and medical professionals that is profoundly committed to providing health care of the highest standards to Madelia and surrounding communities. As a 25-bed acute care hospital, we offer all the primary health services, such as medical/surgical, pediatric, emergency care and more. In 2011, we expanded our services to include a family medical clinic that provides adolescent health, geriatric health, men's health, newborn health, pediatric health, preventative medicine and women's health. Over the years, we have proactively responded to the changing demands within the health care system, which has ensured our ability to deliver up-to-date medical services, purchase advanced medical equipment, and provide complete and compassionate care to all who enter our facility.