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4,000 Missouri medical providers trained on avoiding medical errors

Jefferson City, Mo. – Staff and board members from the Missouri Board of Nursing were among more than four thousand medical professionals statewide to receive training aimed at preventing errors at hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and other settings. The year-long training program called the Just Culture Collaborative was funded by a \$254,240 grant from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and administered by the Missouri Center for Patient Safety.

Seminar attendees included doctors, nurses and administrators from hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes, mental health facilities and others. The grant money was requested after a 2004 report on medical errors in Missouri that pointed to a culture of blame, rather than a system that allowed health care providers to learn from mistakes and prevent them in the future.

"Missouri must have a system for making corrections after mistakes are made," said Lori Scheidt, Executive Director of the Board of Nursing. "Punishing those responsible is not always the answer, and without corrections to systems, these same serious medical errors will occur."

Attendees were trained on the use of human factors engineering concepts, identification of at-risk behavior and reckless behaviors and the use of disciplinary and regulatory processes to address medical errors. The Board of Nursing is one of 67 groups that took part in the training program, which was an unusual collaboration between state regulators and the licensed industries they oversee. Conclusion of the year-long training effort was celebrated at the Center for Patient Safety's third annual conference on April 7 in Columbia.

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