**Award of Merit (Security Officer O’Dea TGH)**

**Plaque and $100 Amazon Gift Card**

Sponsored by Hanwha

On 7/28/2023, at approximately 12:45 hours, security was called to the TGH Kennedy free standing ER, room 4, in reference to a patient who was being discharged, that was agitated, and becoming aggressive towards staff. Upon Security Officer O’Dea’s arrival to the room, the patient was yelling and flailing his arms and legs. He was verbally aggressive with the staff because he was upset about not being provided with the narcotics he wanted. The patient then pulled his IV out and swung it towards a paramedic working in the ER. The patient was redirected and controlled to prevent injury to himself or staff. The paramedic then dressed the IV access site with gauze and tape. Officer O’Dea then learned that the patient was aware that he is HIV positive prior to throwing IV containing blood towards the staff. The patient then calmed down to a point where he was able to leave campus on his own accord. While Officer O’Dea along with the paramedic were escorting the patient off the campus and onto the city sidewalk, he made statements about not needing his meds or property "where I am going?" He then made a dash towards Kennedy boulevard where there was significant traffic. He attempted to jump in front of a west bound vehicle at which time Officer O’Dea, who began immediate pursuit, was able to grab him, pull him backwards out of the roadway, and redirected him to the ground before the vehicle could strike him. Video review of the incident portrayed that it was less than two seconds that the vehicle sped by the spot where the patient was attempting to jump into. TGH Security dispatch and supervisors as well as TPD were notified. The patient was monitored until TPD arrived and placed him under a psychiatric hold. Due to this officer’s quick response to the scene and his ability to act quickly prevented a disastrous incident from occurring. For his actions, Security Officer Robert O’Dea is hereby awarded the 2023 IAHSS West Central Florida Chapter award of Merit. Congratulations!