Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Center
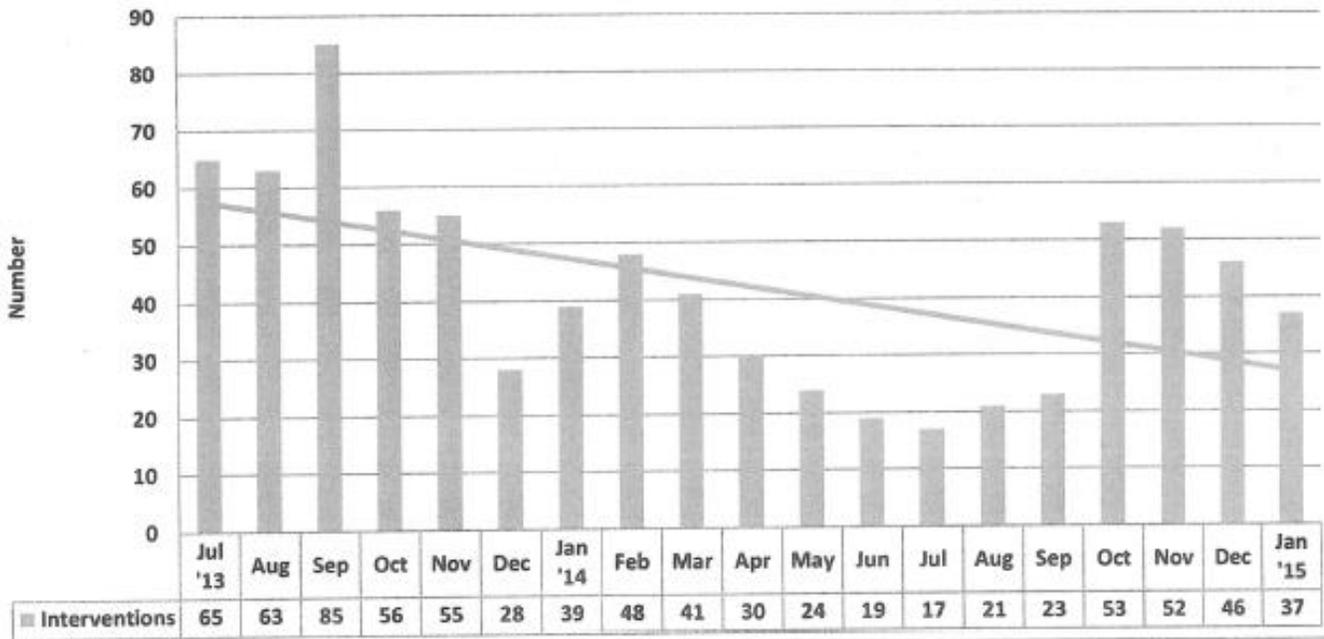**Positive Action Awards**

Given the acuity of the patients on 730 wards, a program that encourages pro-social behavior would help to manage the number of incidents that are currently occurring on these wards. To this end, encouraging staff to recognize and reinforce patients who are able to maintain behavioral control through the use of tangible rewards will both help patients to regulate their behavior. This program will also offer the staff a tool to manage the ward effectively. A modified version of Random Acts of Kindness can be used for this purpose.

Random Acts of Kindness are currently distributed to patients who are noted to be helping peers, maintaining the ward environment, or otherwise contributing to a positive atmosphere on the ward. Patients are nominated by peers or staff and are then given commissary vouchers after a review by the team. However, this is not a program for immediate reinforcement and, as such, needs to be modified for use on 730 wards. I would propose the following:
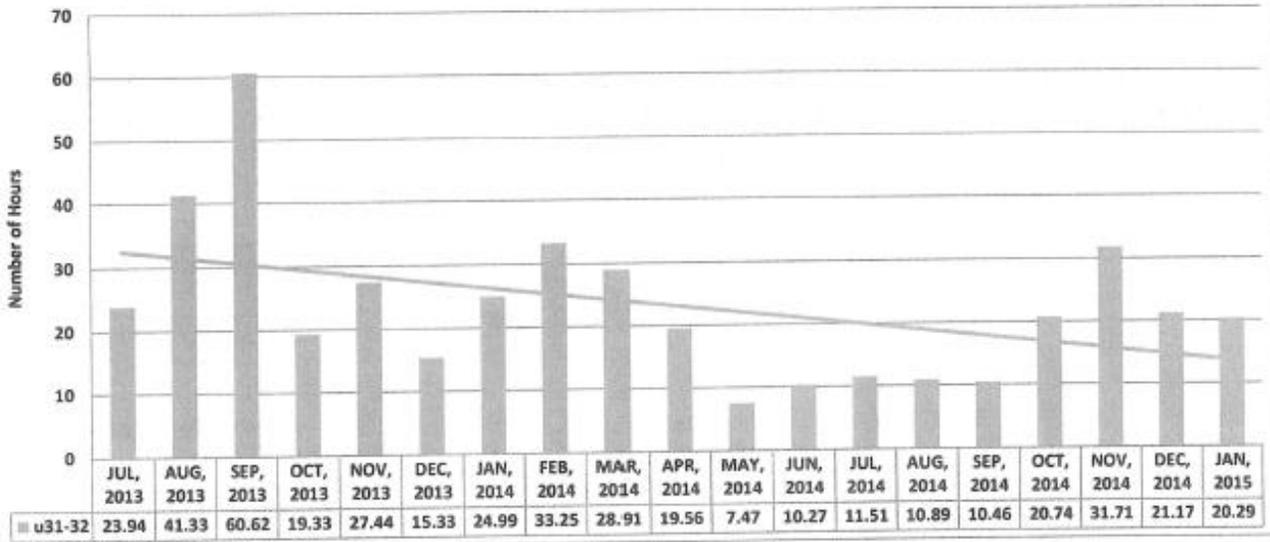
- SHTA staff will recognize patients for behaviors that contribute to overall positive atmosphere of the ward. Examples of the types of behaviors for which a patient could receive a Positive Action Award might be staying in control in a difficult situation, following staff directions, helping peers maintain control, participating in programming, or positive contributions to maintain the physical ward environment.
- SHTA staff would acknowledge the patient's behavior and then call the Senior SHTA to distribute a Positive Action Award. Clinical and other staff can also recognize patients.
- The Positive Action Award (PAA) will be a $1 voucher given to the patient which can be turned in for commissary credit. The voucher will have the patient's name written on the back to prevent use by other patients.
- A log of the patients who receive PAAs will be kept on ihe ward or by the Senior SHTA. This will serve as a reference regarding which patients receive PAAs as well as a method to measure the distribution of PAAs.
- The number of PAAs available per shift will be subject to availability of funds allotted to the program.

The following page contains graphs for Unit 31/32 showing total restraint events and total hours of restraint decreasing from July 2013 to January 2015, and a corresponding increase in Silver Card distribution from September to December 2014.

U31/32 Restraint Interventions by Month

	Jul '13	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan '14	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan '15
Interventions	65	63	85	56	55	28	39	48	41	30	24	19	17	21	23	53	52	46	37

u31-32 Total Restraint Hours Per Month

	JUL, 2013	AUG, 2013	SEP, 2013	OCT, 2013	NOV, 2013	DEC, 2013	JAN, 2014	FEB, 2014	MAR, 2014	APR, 2014	MAY, 2014	JUN, 2014	JUL, 2014	AUG, 2014	SEP, 2014	OCT, 2014	NOV, 2014	DEC, 2014	JAN, 2015
u31-32	23.94	41.33	60.62	19.33	27.44	15.33	24.99	33.25	28.91	19.56	7.47	10.27	11.51	10.89	10.46	20.74	31.71	21.17	20.29

U31/32 Number of Silver Cards, by Week
September-December 2014

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
n of cards	7	16	15	22	26	27	22	25	23	18	7	16	17	22	22