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Hello. My name is Rita Ladd and I have been working at Riverview Psychiatric Center for over 6 years. I am 58 years old. I can attest that working the standard 12 hour shifts here at Riverview are very rough. I have been punched in the face, had hot coffee thrown at me, I have been verbally abused frequently by patients. The job is very dangerous and demanding, esp for us older individuals. Quite often when verbal de-escalation techniques don't work, staff have to go "hands-on" with patients and we employees end up with injuries. I have seen some very serious patient to staff assaults. I personally know of 5 coworkers who were injured and never came back to work. The job is also extremely emotionally demanding and fast paced. I strongly encourage that RPC workers at least 55 years of age with at least 25 years of service be allowed to retire. They have well earned it! I thank you for your time and consideration.