CMH Nurses Overwhelming Vote for Informational Picket

Last night, July 30, the votes were tallied, and 82 percent of all nurses at the hospital voted in favor of an informational picket if management continues to refuse to reach a fair agreement.

Today, July 31, we met with management to go over some smaller items and then hold some open conversations about the larger issues. Both sides reported the conversations were helpful to better understand the details of each proposal and the larger goals these proposals are addressing.

However, we were deeply disappointed to hear that management continues to refuse to provide both elements necessary for economic stability for our nurses. We need both a doc cap to protect from lost hours, and a FTE system that protects from fluctuating schedules. We cannot safely implement one without a protection from changes incurred to the other.

In addition, our other top priorities still are not fully addressed. We absolutely still need parity for clinic nurses’ wages, a fair system for shift length changes, improved tuition reimbursement, and decreased dependent premiums for part time employees.

Tomorrow, we will be meeting with a federal mediator to attempt to address our top priorities. We are still hopeful that we can avoid an informational picket, but our bargaining team knows that our members have made it loud and clear that we won't back down until a fair agreement is reached.

Also, please mark your calendars for a Picnic and Rally at 5:30 p.m. Friday, August 9 at Tapiola Park!

We hope all nurses (that aren't working that night) can come by for free food, music, and a chance to spend time with each other as we gear up for our potential informational picket. Nurses will be assembling picket signs and signing up for picket shifts. We'll have some inspirational guest speakers, and games for friends and kids. Please watch for fliers, and talk to your contract action team members for more details.

Be sure to visit the Columbia Memorial bargaining unit page for more updates and information.