July 1, 2013

BARGAINING UPDATE FOR
BLUE MOUNTAIN RECOVERY CENTER NURSES

Your Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) bargaining team met with the State on Friday, June 28, for negotiations. The State gave the clearest indication yet that they expect Blue Mountain Recovery Center (BMRC) to close as of December 31, 2013. That's also what ONA understands from the current budget discussions occurring in Salem. If this ends up being the case, it means that the State will begin closing BMRC before December 31, 2013, meaning layoffs will probably start occurring sometime after September.

As a result of this news, we spent the remainder of negotiations discussing ways to help nurses transition out of BMRC. One proposal the State made was to pay the employee-only insurance benefit for six months after layoff, so long as the employee does not file for and receive unemployment benefits. SEIU Local 503 has agreed to this proposal.

We'd like to hear from you about this proposal and other suggestions you might have. Please take the time to fill out this survey and return all completed surveys to Michael Bryan.

1. If you were laid-off, would you take the insurance benefit, rather than unemployment insurance?  Yes or No.
   Please explain your choice_____________________________________

2. What other assistance would help you with transitioning out of BMRC (mark all the apply)?
   ◊ Training (please explain)_____________________________________
   ◊ Education assistance (please explain)___________________________
   ◊ Help finding and applying for other State jobs
   ◊ Help finding and applying for jobs outside of the State
   ◊ Financial counseling
   ◊ Severance package
   ◊ Other (please explain)_____________________________________

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3. If BMRC does close, do you have the option of moving out of the area for other work? Yes or No

4. If you do have the option of moving out of the area, how likely do you think it is that you will move to look for work outside the area? (Definitely will move, Very Likely, Likely, Not Likely at all)

5. If you intend to work after BMRC closes (as opposed to retire), where do you see yourself working? (please name)_______________________________________________________________________

6. If you are laid-off, how long do you expect it to take you to find another position? (please specify)___________________________________________________________________________________

7. Any other information you would like to share?___________________________________________________________________________________

The Oregon Nurses Foundation (ONF) has a new look, a new mission and a new vision for the future of nursing in Oregon! ONF is a 501c3 charitable Foundation with a mission to advance and promote the profession of nursing in Oregon through scholarships, workforce development and training and nursing retention. We are asking nurses across the state to make a charitable donation to the Foundation to help us launch the Oregon Nurses Foundation with new vitality and strength! YOUR generous gift can help provide new scholarships to nursing students wanting to enter the profession, can help fund training and CE programs for nurses who need new skills to adapt the changes in health care, and provide essential services that will keep nurses facing personal and professional challenges in the profession. Our goal? To raise $50,000! Your role? Make a tax-deductible donation to the Oregon Nurses Foundation today! Together, we can make a difference for the future of nursing!

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