Marion County Bargaining Update

Our ONA/Marion County negotiation team (Dana Finch, Jessica Hanson, and Melanie Breedlove) have been busy listening to you and preparing proposals for our next bargaining round with the employer. Our team hopes to continue our productive relationship with our employer.

However, we were surprised when the employer refused to provide us with the information we need to create our bargaining proposals. Instead of providing the data—which is a normal feature of labor negotiations—they treated our request as a public records request, which is an inappropriate legal maneuver.

Our requests for information were basic data to help us prepare our proposals on your behalf, including our current roster and contact information, the compensation plan the employer uses to pay nurses, total payroll costs, and total use of leave. These are regular and ordinary requests for which the employer provided data last time we bargained in 2016. The employer is required under Oregon labor law to provide us with data we request, as long are our requests are relevant and specific. See our original request for information and related communications.

We are puzzled by the employer’s uncooperative attitude. We want a fruitful exchange of ideas so we can continue to serve our clients and the community. The employer’s response hampers our efforts to develop our bargaining proposals.

While the employer may charge us to produce such information, we had hoped to explore with the employer other reports where the data is already available. They didn’t provide us with a cost estimate in advance, as they indicated they would. Instead, they told us, they went ahead and produced the data without our consent to pay. Now they say they will send it to us when we pay for the costs, without an opportunity to discuss other no-cost ways we could get the data.

We had hoped to begin bargaining with our employer on March 11. Instead, we now hope to use that bargaining session to review our information requests with the employer so we can get the data from an existing report. Our goal is to create a positive atmosphere where we can work together collaboratively. We hope the employer will join us in that effort.

For more information, contact any member of our bargaining team or our labor rep, Gary Aguiar, text/call 503-444-0690 or email Aguiar@OregonRN.org.