ARTICLE XX – TASK FORCE

A. Purpose. The Employer and the Union agree to create a Task Force for the purpose of facilitating communication and fostering a model of cooperative problem solving of issues related to contract and operational matters arising during the term of the current Agreement. The parties reiterate their mutual commitment to quality patient care. In a joint effort to ensure optimal care and maintain professional standards, the Task Force shall examine practice and staffing issues, including patient load, patient assignment, classification/acuity system, orientation, and other issues of shared concern.

B. Membership. The Union shall appoint up to three (3) members to the Task Force, at least two (2) of whom shall be employed by the Employer. The Employer may designate up to three (3) members of leadership as its members of the Task Force.

C. Meetings. The Task Force shall meet at least once (1) a month to accomplish its assignment. Up to three (3) clinician members shall be paid up to one and one half (1 ½) hours per month for attendance at Task Force meetings. The Task Forces for the Registered Nurses bargaining unit and Providers bargaining unit shall meet jointly unless there is mutual agreement by the Union and Employer to meet separately. The meetings shall be held virtually unless there is mutual agreement by the Union and Employer to meet in person.

D. Agreement. If after exploring alternatives mutual agreement upon a solution acceptable to the Task Force is reached, such will be implemented by the Employer. If agreement cannot be reached, the Employer will respond in writing to the Union members’ written recommendations within two (2) weeks of receipt.

E. Minutes. Minutes for each meeting shall be prepared and furnished to the members of the Task Force. The Employer and Union will, upon request by the Task Force, supply records and information necessary to fulfill the Task Force’s goals. The minutes and information furnished to the Union and Task Force members in connection with the functioning of the Task Force are to be deemed confidential and may be disclosed to other persons only by mutual agreement of the Employer and Union.