PeaceHealth Closing Home Infusion Program

On Friday April 28, PeaceHealth announced it is closing the Home Infusion program at Sacred Heart Home Health and laying off the ten Home Infusion nurses as well as all the other staff in the program. This is in addition to three other home care nurses who are being laid off – two palliative care nurses and a liaison. This is part of yet another joint venture with a for-profit company meant to boost PeaceHealth’s profit margins. The other joint venture is with Lifepoint to open a rehab hospital near the annex) meant to boost PeaceHealth profit margin. Emerging Health will take over the home infusion program and ONA members will have to apply to positions there if they want to keep providing care to patients. They would no longer be protected by the union contract under this scenario.

ONA has issued a demand to bargain over these layoffs even while we support the nurses in the process in case we cannot stop the move. We believe PeaceHealth, as a partner in this new venture, could and should bring the current contract over to their new business. They have stated, “We don’t get to tell the joint venture how to hire their workers.” This seems like nonsense since PeaceHealth is a partner in the business and should have authority over this issue. The timeline for the layoffs is August, but we don’t know for sure when they will happen yet. Needless to say, this move has cast a pall over the contract negotiations and will make it harder for us as we work towards coming to an agreement.

We ask that all Sacred Heart nurses, whether home care or medical center, stand in solidarity with the home infusion and palliative care nurses as we seek ways to push back on this terrible decision. This means showing up for negotiations and participating in actions like unity breaks and a “March on the Boss” that will be organized in the coming weeks. These layoffs are shortsighted and harmful to both nurses and patients. Once again, PeaceHealth seems to be more interested in their bottom line than their mission to serve our community’s needs.
Home Care Negotiations Proceed in Wake of Layoffs

We held negotiations for Home Care on Tuesday even while we dealt with the fallout of the layoff announcement. It was a difficult morning since the layoffs include a member of the Home Care bargaining team, but we still managed to make some important progress. Sacred Heart didn’t give us a counter on our differential proposal which was disappointing. We gave them a number of counterproposals including on Article 13 Filling of Vacancies where we are working to preserve the intent that internal candidates get priority over external even after the initial seven-day posting period. We also formally rejected their proposal to require coordinators to work weekend rotation. These positions were created as Monday – Friday positions and changing them now would have a real impact on the nurses in these roles. We had a productive discussion and offered Sacred Heart alternative ideas to forcing these nurses to start working weekends.

The big win of the day was reaching a tentative agreement (TA) to create Program Based Practice Councils for each program in the agency. These are modeled on the Unit Based Practice Councils (UBPC) that the Medical Center has. We were very happy that PeaceHealth recognized the value of these types of committees where nurses can spend time focused on nurse practice to improve patient outcomes. It was a positive way to end a difficult day and the room erupted in applause as both sides announced we had an agreement. Thank you to everyone who came in person and joined on Zoom to attend the session.

We were in a small conference room over near UD and having people show up made a huge difference. The next Home Care negotiations are scheduled for Monday, May 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the physician and surgeon’s building at University District (UD) in the Cusak room. Please try to join us or watch by Zoom (link below) and show your support for the Home Care nurses.

Join Us During Negotiations

**MONDAY, MAY 8**
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Home Care
Cusack Board Room
University District Facility Building
770 E 11th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

**TUESDAY, MAY 9**
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Medical Center
Room 200 ALL at Riverbend

JOIN ZOOM MEETING: bit.ly/3JbsHXXK
Meeting ID: 450 007 4442
Passcode: KDN0C7

If you are not able to make it in person or are limited on time, please join us virtually as we continue to progress through negotiations! This Zoom link will stay consistent throughout negotiations so save it and pass it on. Simply click on the link or use your Zoom app and enter the ID and passcode.

We typically start by 1000 (10 a.m.) and go until 1700 (5 p.m.), but every day is different. You will enter muted and need to stay muted. If you are not allowed to enter the meeting, it’s because we are caucusing or on break. Check in later.

In solidarity - SHMC & SHHCS Bargaining Team
Nurses Week!

ALL NURSES

Please Wear Black All Week In Solidarity

Come by room 200 EB on Wednesday, May 10 from 0700-1900 for snacks, to learn what’s happening in bargaining and how you can help us fight for more!

Fun Activities:

- Join a Unity Break action at 1200 & 1545 in the Main Lobby at Riverbend
- Grab an ONA car window shade
- United nurses wall selfies
- Learn about strikes and pickets
- Make a picket sign
- Enter to win a raffle prize

This will be a great opportunity to talk directly to bargaining team members, share our wins in bargaining so far, and to talk about how to overcome the challenges ahead. We want you to leave with snacks, awareness of what it takes to win, and a renewed sense of excitement for our profession.

Raffle Prizes - each person gets one ticket for coming by the room. Prizes include:

- Over $200 in gift cards.
- 18 rounds of golf (with cart) at Laurelwood for two.
- Rainsong winery tastings for two.
- A wine basket from The Broadway.
- Eugene Yacht Club sailing lessons.
- Free Polemic lessons.
- Spring Snow massages.

Sacred Heart Home Care Services:
Come to the courtyard between 0700-0930 for ONA swag, treats, and bargaining update.

University District:
Treats will be delivered to your units!
ONA Statewide Elections: Voting Open through May 15

Voting in the 2023 ONA Statewide Elections is open through May 15. This is an opportunity for every ONA member to have a voice in the future of nursing in Oregon.

This election features races for critical leadership positions, including contested races for the Labor Cabinet and the Cabinet on Health Policy, ANA delegates and more.

Voting Process and Information

ONA is using YesElections as the service provider for our 2023 ONA Statewide Election. Members were sent an email or postcard on April 13 from YesElections with your voting information.

The best way to ensure you receive a ballot so you can participate in the election is to make sure your contact information is up to date.

If you have not been receiving emails from ONA, please visit www.OregonRN.org/Update to update your information and communication preferences.

Didn’t Receive a Ballot?

Search your junk/spam folders (and your promotions or other tabs in Gmail) for an email from YesElections on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association.

If you did not receive your ballot via email, or if you have questions regarding your membership or election guidelines, please contact ONA at news@oregonrn.org.

Open Positions:

- Vice-President / ANA Delegate
- Treasurer
- Director
- Director: Recent Grad
- Cabinet on Education
- Cabinet on Health Policy
- Cabinet on Human Rights & Ethics
- Cabinet on Nursing Practice & Research
- Cabinet on Organizing
- Labor Cabinet Seats 7 & 8
- Labor Cabinet Seat 9
- ANA Delegate Seats for 2024 & 2025

www.OregonRN.org/Elections