ONA/WVMC
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Some Progress

The ONA and Willamette Valley Medical Center (WVMC) made some progress in two back-to-back bargaining sessions last week with a federal mediator overseeing the discussions. The mediator asked both parties to assess their current positions and we set a goal to get something done. Yes, some progress was made, but major differences remain on the all-important core issues that separate the parties. Specifically, we reached agreements on professional development and education, and safe lifting provisions which will be incorporated into a new contract.

Significant differences remain on wages and benefits. ONA believes strongly that years of service and prior experience are too important to ignore as both parties work to develop a salary scale. We emphasized that point last week and no doubt WVMC management heard us. We will see if we can overcome our differences on those issues. We continue to emphasize key concerns regarding safety and we have made it clear to WVMC management that placing travel nurses on pedestals and denying our members work is unacceptable. More work needs to be done on that as well.

We continue to talk and that’s a good thing. Our next sessions with the mediator are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, July 21 and 22. We hope to know more about the direction of these negotiations at that time. Thank you for your continued support and all of you that have signed the petition authorizing the bargaining team to call a strike when our negotiations breakdown and progress is denied. We will be prudent but decisive when that time comes.

Status of Proposals

Your ONA bargaining team met with WVMC management for two sessions recently. These are the proposals that were discussed for the dates of July 7 and 8.

Tentative agreements:
- Education and Training
- Joint Responsibility

ONA presented:
- Safe Patient Handling
- Safety and Security
- Permanent Charge Letter of Understanding (LOU)