BRIUS NURSING HOMES

WORKERS RIGHTS BOARD: HIGHER PAY, BETTER STAFFING NEEDED AT MARIN NURSING HOMES

After hearing testimony from caregivers, residents and their relatives, a board consisting of Marin County community, political, and faith leaders called Brius Healthcare “a bad actor” and recommended that the State of California find a better operator to run San Rafael Healthcare and Wellness Center and Novato Healthcare Center.

The board also made the following immediate recommendations to management: increase staffing; raise caregiver wages; stop retaliating against employees who speak up for their patients; and restore fixed five-day schedules in San Rafael. Novato City Councilmembers who attended for the meeting are now asking for a meeting with management to address the concerns raised at the March 4 hearing.

NOVATO HEALTHCARE CENTER WORKERS RATIFY FIRST CONTRACT

NUHW members at Novato Healthcare Center voted 96 percent to ratify a three-year contract that includes improved healthcare and vacation benefits, more sick leave, a performance bonus, protection against unjust termination, and 7 percent wage increases over the life of the contract.

NORTH AMERICAN

COTTONWOOD MEMBERS ARE HOLDING MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABLE

Cottonwood workers came together for a union membership meeting with NUHW representatives on April 11 to discuss short staffing and resulting workload and safety issues. Workers are frustrated with management’s slow response to the staffing shortage. Despite the recent use of registry, call-offs are not being covered and workloads are unsustainable, depriving residents of their dignity and quality patient care.

After the meeting, member Charlotte Mares, steward Betty Drugas, and NUHW Organizers Dennis Dugan and Tara Draper met with Administrator Harumi Hurrianko and Vice President Michael Moore to discuss members’ frustration regarding understaffing, heavy workloads, a lack of consideration of patient acuity, unsafe working conditions, lack of supplies, and broken equipment. Management committed to recruiting and hiring more nursing staff, improving communication regarding how staffing ratios are determined, and improving the process for reporting broken equipment and lack of supplies.

We will follow up on these issues at the next Labor–Management Committee meeting at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18.
**Betty Drugas**
(530) 309-5013 • bettydrugas@yahoo.com

What do you do at Cottonwood Post- Acute Rehab?
I am a Certified Nursing Assistant on the A.M. shift. I care for our patients and their basic needs.

Why did you become a steward?
I want to help my co-workers and make sure they are being treated fairly by the employer.

What do you do for fun?
For fun I enjoy playing bingo, it is my favorite thing to do.

What is your hope for other workers at Cottonwood?
My hope is for improved working conditions and wages, so they can be there for their patients in a safe working environment providing quality care.

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**Ken Musyoki**
(916) 270-7151 • kensyoki@gmail.com

What do you do at Cottonwood Post- Acute Rehab?
I am a Restorative Nursing Assistant at Cottonwood Healthcare. I also double up as a CNA when required to do so on the floor.

Why did you get involved with NUHW?
I got involved with the NUHW because by default it was the union representing the building I worked in. Since 2011 I have tirelessly worked to ensure equitable fare and representation of dues-paying union members. We fought for the change in SEIU and the formation of NUHW.

What is your hope for other workers at Cottonwood?
My hope is for improved staffing and workloads, and better wages.

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