

# **KAISER CONTRACT CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

**May 10, 2019**

Here are the latest developments in our contract campaign:

## **Meeting with Bernard Tyson and Anticipated Kaiser Proposal**

Clem Papazian (IBHS), Dan Gizzo (Psych-Social) and I met for an hour on Monday with Kaiser executives Bernard Tyson, Greg Adams and Don Mordecai. The meeting was an opportunity for Clem and Dan to explain staffing and access issues and how the current system compromises patient care and contributes to recruitment and retention problems. Tyson told us that he had not previously appreciated the magnitude of the problem with return access and had been moved by his recent meeting with Kaiser patients that we pressured him to accept.

All three executives acknowledged that Kaiser must improve return access and said they wanted our help in developing a national model to improve mental health care. We should have a better sense early next week about how sincere Kaiser executives are when it comes to working with us. They are scheduled to meet Monday to come up with a comprehensive statewide offer that they believe will address our concerns. We will update you again after our bargaining teams receive this proposal.

## **Kaiser Protest at Biden Fundraiser**

About a dozen clinicians and NUHW staffers protested a fundraiser for Joe Biden Wednesday at the Los Angeles home of Cynthia Telles, who is the only mental health professional on Kaiser's board of directors.

Our protest generated a lot of media attention. Our clinicians were interviewed about mental health care at Kaiser by reporters from the [Los Angeles Times](#), [ABC National](#), [ABC7](#), [Fox11](#), [KTLA5](#), [CBS209](#), [Reuters](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#). The protest was also covered by [ABC Radio](#), [HuffPost](#), [The Hill](#), [Daily Kos](#) and [Common Dreams](#).

We reached out to members of Biden's campaign team last weekend, letting them know that we would not protest if he agreed to tell Telles and other Kaiser executives at the fundraiser to work with us to improve access to care. But they never got back to us, and, according to press reports, Biden did not mention our protest during the fundraiser. We are continuing to engage with

every presidential candidate about affirming their commitment to mental health parity and appearing at our leadership conference in September.

### **Survey Released**

We released our member survey Thursday documenting that appointment wait times have increased at Kaiser clinics over the last two years and that a majority of Kaiser clinicians don't have available non-cancellation return appointments for at least a month into the future. Click [here](#) to see a copy of the survey that is now on NUHW's website.

### **Mental Health Ads Running in the Bay Area**

Starting Friday, May 10, we will be running a [30-second advertisement](#) highlighting Kaiser's mental health failures on MSNBC and CNBC. The ad recently ran during Morning Joe in the Washington, DC Metro Area.