

ST. JOSEPH EUREKA & REDWOOD MEMORIAL HOSPITALS BARGAINING UPDATE

APRIL 9, 2020

Between March 31 and April 6, more than a dozen of us returned to the bargaining table (via video conferencing), with facilitation assistance from federal mediators. We submitted a bold one-time “supposal” to settle a contract ASAP, so folks can focus on responding to COVID-19 and keeping everyone safe.

We asked for simple, moderate increases and no take-aways. We proposed wages starting at \$16.50, across-the-board wage increases of 3 percent, and the maintenance of PTO and insurance benefits intact. Period.

Sadly, Providence St. Joseph’s representatives made clear they are trying to “align” us to a “model” — a model that means lower pay, inferior health insurance, and insufficient staffing, all in the name of the “ministry” and its budget.

Healthcare workers on the frontline of today’s pandemic need enough PTO to care for our families — or ourselves if we become ill. We need quality health care we can actually afford. And new hires in vital departments like EVS and Dietary need a starting wage higher than what they could get at a fast food restaurant.

Also, with layoffs occurring in most industries, healthcare workers may be the only wage-earner or insurance provider left in our households right now. We are already being asked to exhaust our earned time-off and sick-leave if we get sick, or need to care for a sick family member. And now we’re supposed to accept a *reduction* in PTO and earnings, especially for the most dedicated and long-term workers? How can the hospital expect the workers to accept that?

If we stand together, we can stop these unfair cutbacks and win better working conditions so we can better care for our patients, our families, and ourselves.

Bargaining resumes on April 16 and 20 via RingCentral*

Contact NUHW Organizer Julia Minton for a link to attend: jminton@nuhw.org or (707) 932-5554

**RingCentral is a video conferencing app, much like Zoom, used by our mediators. You need to download the free RingCentral Chrome extension or smart phone app to access the meeting; please do so in advance to avoid delays!*

NUHW NATIONAL UNION OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS