

PROP 27

Lacks critical safeguards to prevent underage gambling

Vote NO ▶

Paid for by YES on 26, NO on 27



SUBSCRIBER EDITION

Account ▼

Friday, October 14, 2022
Today's eEdition

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

☀ 83°F 84° 52°

News Sports Politics Opinion Obituaries • Personal Finance Food & Drink Bee Curious Equity Lab Homebuyers Guide

HEALTH & MEDICINE

Sacramento mayor will mediate negotiations between Kaiser, striking mental health clinicians

BY CATHIE ANDERSON

UPDATED OCTOBER 14, 2022 2:19 PM



Social worker Amalia Marroquin, center, yells chants to cars passing last month during a strike involving mental health clinicians represented by the National Union of Healthcare Workers at Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center in Sacramento. The two sides have agreed to have Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg mediate their stalled contract talks. SARA NEVIS snevis@sacbee.com



Only have a minute? Listen instead

Powered by Trinity Audio

00:00

1.0X

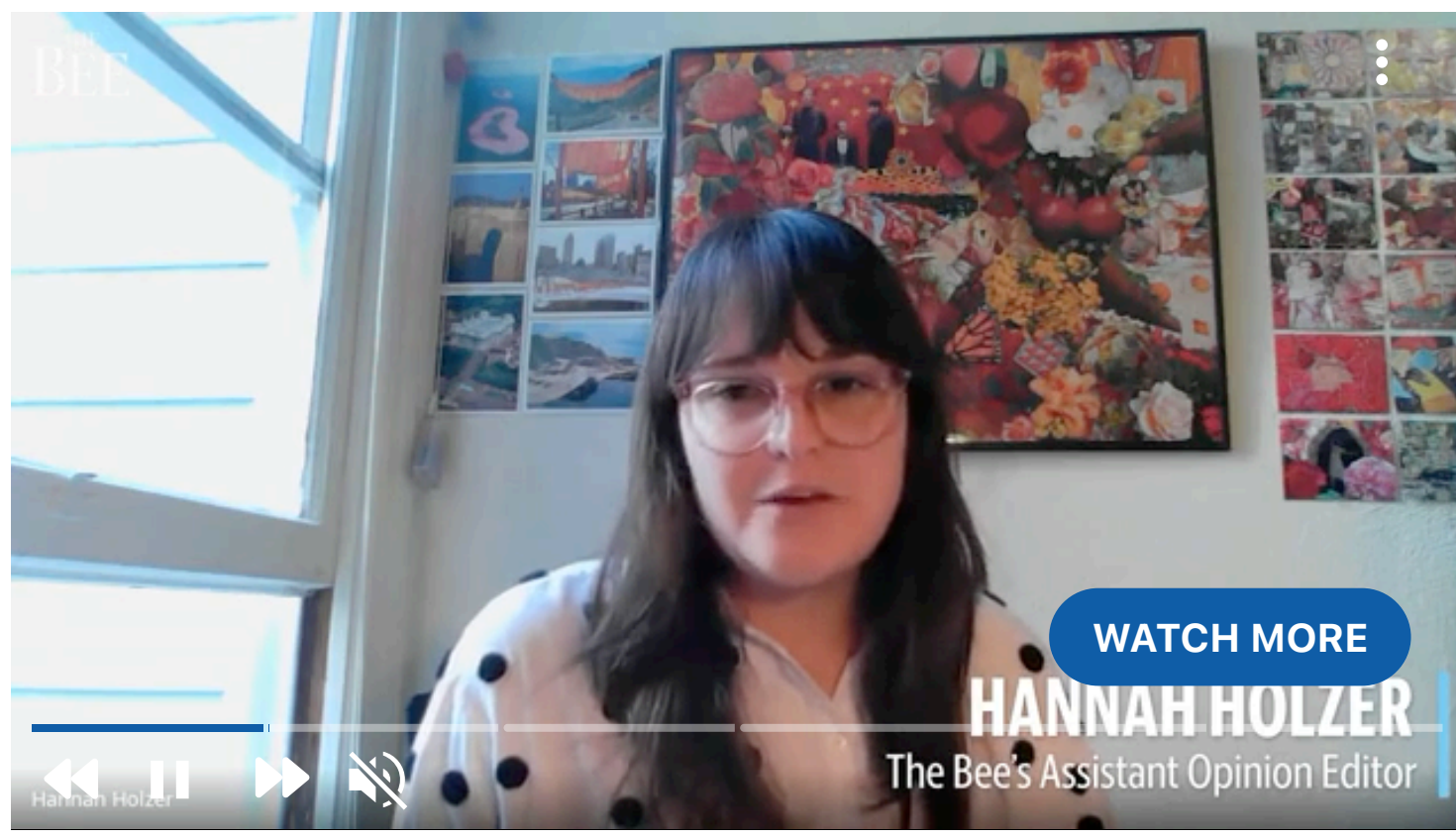
02:55

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg will mediate negotiations between Kaiser Permanente and the National Union of Health Care Workers, which represents roughly 2,000 mental health clinicians [who have been on strike for nearly 10 weeks](#).

During a rally Friday in Oakland, NUHW President Sal Rosselli announced that the union agreed to work with Steinberg to try and settle a key issue that has bogged down negotiations. Rosselli said he had just left a two-hour meeting with Steinberg where he introduced himself as, not the mayor of Sacramento nor as former president pro tem of the California Senate, but as the individual who spearheaded state legislative efforts that put billions of dollars into mental health care for California communities.

"I hope within days we come to a resolution," Rosselli said. "Our hope is a tentative agreement, and that tentative agreement must include a fundamental change in the relationship, where Kaiser executives agreed to collaborate with you, with our clinicians, to finally fix the behavioral health system."

TOP VIDEOS



Video: Bee editorial board interviews Eureka Union School Board candidates Conklin, Escamilla

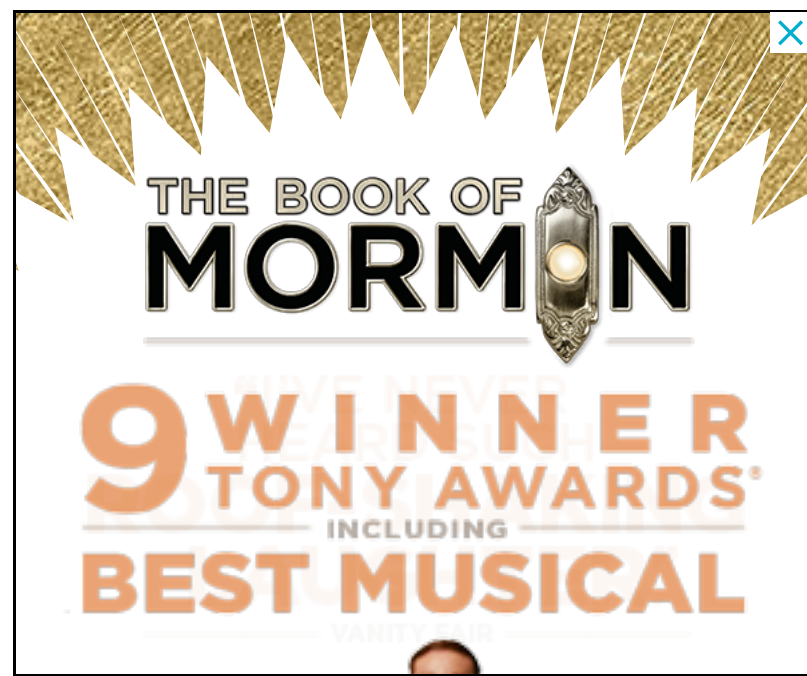
The company and union have been at odds over how much time therapists should have to take care of patients' needs outside therapy sessions. Mental health providers have said that, in addition to putting their notes in Kaiser's system, they often must connect patients with other resources and use the tools of their profession to assess a patient's conditions.

In a statement released Friday afternoon, Kaiser officials said they were committed to reaching an agreement that met patients' needs.

Get unlimited digital access

Subscribe now for just \$2 for 2 months.

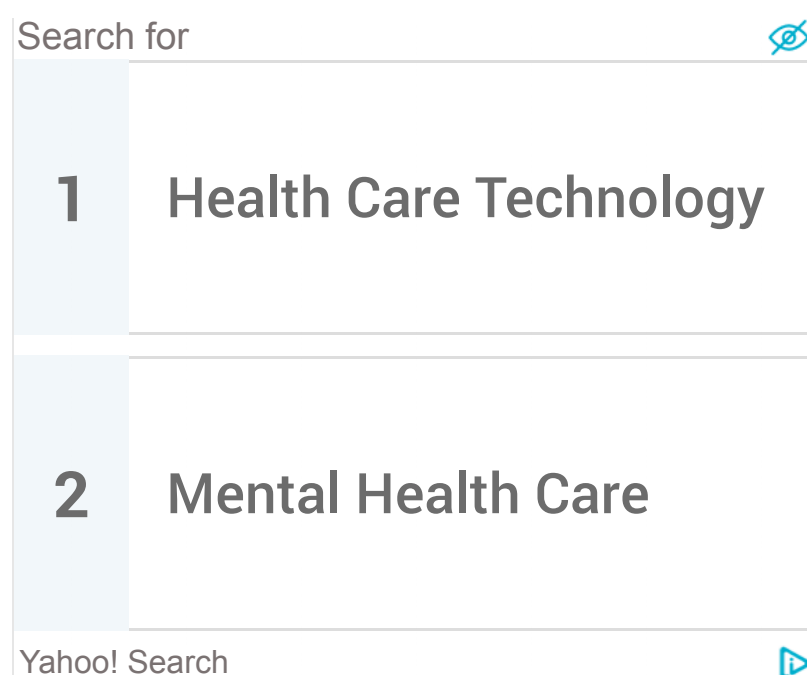
CLAIM OFFER



"After much back and forth, we are at a point where, to move this forward and find a solution, we need an independent, third-party mediator," company officials said in the statement. "We are pleased that NUHW has agreed to join with us in this. We proposed, and NUHW agreed, to ask Mayor Steinberg to mediate our contract negotiations."

The mayor's representatives did not immediately comment. Steinberg has been meeting with both sides today.

Rosselli also noted that it was Steinberg who helped to negotiate a tentative deal in 2015 as NUHW prepared to go into an open-ended strike.



Therapists, represented by the National Union of Health Care Workers, said Kaiser members routinely wait months to see [their clients in Sacramento and elsewhere](#) around Northern California after an initial intake session to assess their needs.

[Kaiser members also have contacted The Bee](#) to share how long waits for treatment affected them or their family members, saying they felt trapped in a "circle of horror" because contracted therapists on the company-provided lists were either not seeing new patients or didn't have the credentials to treat them.

This story was originally published October 14, 2022 1:22 PM.

FOLLOW MORE OF OUR REPORTING ON HEALTH CARE WORKERS

HEALTH & MEDICINE

Stem cell breakthrough at UC Davis helped 3 babies with spina bifida defy expectations

OCTOBER 07, 2022 6:00 AM

HEALTH & MEDICINE

At 71, this Sacramento heart attack survivor is running a half-marathon — with his doctor

OCTOBER 02, 2022 5:30 AM

SEE ALL STORIES →

RELATED STORIES FROM SACRAMENTO BEE

HEALTH & MEDICINE

California opens new investigation into Kaiser mental health as complaints surge in strike

AUGUST 24, 2022 2:58 PM

HEALTH & MEDICINE

Kaiser braces for 3-month strike, dangles incentives to mental health contractors

AUGUST 26, 2022 5:25 AM



CATHIE ANDERSON

916-321-1193

Cathie Anderson covers health care for The Bee. Growing up, her blue-collar parents paid out of pocket for care. She joined The Bee in 2002, with roles including business columnist and features editor. She previously worked at papers including the Dallas Morning News, Detroit News and Austin American-Statesman.

READ NEXT

CORONAVIRUS

California's COVID-19 decline starts to slow, as new variants spread in US and Europe

BY MICHAEL MCGOUGH

UPDATED OCTOBER 14, 2022 2:07 PM



California's positivity rate for coronavirus has flattened over the past few weeks, after falling since July.

KEEP READING →

TRENDING STORIES

Cause of death released for Kiely Rodni, missing California teen found in reservoir

UPDATED OCTOBER 13, 2022 4:26 PM

Latinos are increasingly leaning more Republican. But not so much in California

UPDATED OCTOBER 13, 2022 4:27 PM

Top Democratic women call out California senator for downplaying unwanted hugging

UPDATED OCTOBER 13, 2022 12:38 PM

Hole-in-one prize winner sues after country club refuses to give him keys to new truck

UPDATED OCTOBER 14, 2022 9:56 AM

ATV riders ignore 'dead end' sign and get lost in AZ desert. Then they went back again

OCTOBER 13, 2022 12:11 PM

LOCAL

Here's where you can get free flu and COVID shots at the same time in Sacramento County

OCTOBER 14, 2022 6:30 AM

EDUCATION

Sacramento schools combat growing fentanyl danger, make Narcan available at every campus

UPDATED OCTOBER 09, 2022 2:52 PM

HEALTH & MEDICINE

Stem cell breakthrough at UC Davis helped 3 babies with spina bifida defy expectations

UPDATED OCTOBER 07, 2022 11:52 AM

HEALTH & MEDICINE

At 71, this Sacramento heart attack survivor is running a half-marathon — with his doctor

OCTOBER 02, 2022 5:30 AM

HEALTH & MEDICINE

⚠ Exclusive: A Sacramento pharmacist is taking a loss to share the monkeypox vaccine. Here's why

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 8:08 AM

CAPITOL ALERT

James Gomez, who advised governors and led change in California nursing homes, dies at 73

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 12:29 PM

Take Us With You

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.



THE SACRAMENTO BEE APP →



VIEW NEWSLETTERS →



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Start a Subscription

Customer Service

eEdition

Vacation Hold

Pay Your Bill

LEARN MORE

About Us

Contact Us

Newsletters

Archives

Sports Betting

Personal Finance

ADVERTISING

Media Kit

Place a Classified Ad

Legal Notices

Place a Classified Ad

Place a Newspaper Ad