



FACT SHEET

Therapists, social workers, patient care support specialists, and dietary workers at Sutter Center for Psychiatry are fighting for higher safety standards and competitive wages that will help reduce staff turnover by attracting and retaining quality caregivers.

As the only not-for-profit psychiatric hospital in the region, Sutter Center for Psychiatry plays a critical role in Sacramento County's behavioral healthcare system. The county contracts with the center for the delivery of mental health services to primarily low-income residents, including adults with serious and persistent mental illness, children and youth with serious emotional disturbance, and at-risk children and youth. Medi-Cal recipients constitute the majority of the hospital's patients – 57 percent of inpatients and 63 percent of outpatients.

WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

- **Higher workplace safety standards:** Psychiatric caregivers experience various forms of violence in the workplace at significantly higher rates than other specialties.
- **Safe staffing:** 70 percent of Sutter Psych Center workers reported that their unit is understaffed in a recent union survey. 79 percent reported experiencing understaffing daily or at least once per week, while 58 percent reported experiencing unsafe situations at work due to understaffing.
- **Market rate wages:** Many Sutter Psych Center caregivers are not paid a living wage, based on an index created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.¹ This contributes to turnover and vacant positions that leave workers spread way too thin.

SUTTER CAN AFFORD TO DO BETTER

In the reporting period ending December 31, 2021, Sutter Center for Psychiatry recorded more than \$946,000 in total profit, with a net income margin of +2.1 percent.²

Sutter Health, the psych center's parent company and the state's second largest healthcare system, reported a \$278 million operating profit in 2022, and Sutter's income for the first six months of 2023 jumped 166 percent compared with the first six months of 2022.³

1. Source: Living Wage Calculation for Sacramento County, California. Accessed 18 October 2023.

2. <https://emma.msrb.org/P21682574-P21294753-P21725062.pdf>. Accessed 18 October 2023.

3. <https://emma.msrb.org/P21718263-P21320808-P21753725.pdf>. Accessed 18 October 2023.