

No Coverage

Lately a lot of people in the clinics have had to go for training on the electronic medical record system: Next Gen. But what happens to the clinics while they are gone? It should be pretty straightforward; the trainings have been planned for months. Management had plenty of time to plan for coverage. Instead they have been leaving us to drown with an unmanageable workload once again. Come on, its not rocket science!

Wait Too Long

Patients have to wait too long to get new appointments at Highland Hospital. Delays mean patients suffer longer and could mean that they are much sicker and possibly even untreatable by the time they get to see a doctor or get a test they need. One of the clinics has 40 patients waiting for cancer work ups! This is unacceptable. If more money is needed to solve the problem maybe they could take some from the bloated military or prison budgets.

Stress Relief

Everyday we come to work under immense pressure. We have patients that have hard lives and need a lot of our attention. We have doctors that have a lot of work that needs to be done. Our departments are packed with patients and we are constantly being forced to make up for short staffing and lack of resources. It's enough to give someone a nervous break down. Where is our stress relief? What are we supposed to do? Grin and bear it?

All About the Money?

Our patients have it worse than patients at private hospitals in a lot of ways. It can be hard to get a hold of doctors, people have to wait hours after their appointment times or loooooong hours in the ER. Some people say, "its free care, that's what you get" but how fair is that? Does a *poor* sick or injured person deserve less quality care than a *rich* sick or injured person? It shouldn't be about money, it should be about taking care of people when they need it. Period.

Join Us

There is a saying, "If you're not outraged you're not paying attention." Nowadays you would have to live in a cave not to understand that sentiment. But we do not have to accept things as is. Whether it's our working conditions or the insanity of our world, a few people can begin to look at these questions and figure out what can be done. If you don't want to stick your head in the ground, join us!

When: Thursday 10/12 @ 4:30pm

Where: Starbucks, Lakeshore Ave

Tentative Agreement?

This past week flyers with info on a Tentative Agreement between the Union and AHS management has floated around. So what's addressed? Wages for both groups, working conditions for the nurses, and the conversion of SAN's to regular employees. Other benefits and workplace safety and respect are also discussed.

For *wages*, they are proposing a 3% pay raise each year for 3 years across the board. Sure, that is better than 1% but does it truly reflect the cost of living in the Bay Area?

For *working conditions*? New policies are being raised to address understaffing of nurses. But this impacts everyone at the hospital. What will really make the difference is a culture of confidence and solidarity among the workers. Management will try to get away with what they can, until they can't.

