

SEIU Healthcare Connection

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United for Quality Care

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EMPLOYED AT UWHCA
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Bargaining 2010

By: Linda Merwin, RN, Float Pool, Steward & Congress Board Member

Just a reminder that our current union contract expires June 30, 2010. Soon our union will be organizing information to prepare to bargain. With the current national issues concerning the economy our union would like to hear from you regarding your priorities, ideas and thoughts. Please keep an eye open for upcoming bargaining surveys which are now circulating throughout the units and are available at your union hall.

Also, if you have been notified of a Pre-Disciplinary Investigation, you have the right to be represented by a union representative. Be sure to request representation.

Staffing Survey

By: Mike Cordes, RN, F4/6, Steward, Congress Board Co-Chair

In the fall of 2004, our Union and UWHC negotiated a provision in the contract that requires semi-annual review of staffing levels. Management agreed to schedule two, four hour labor management meetings each year in order to accomplish this. Because of the snow day, January is the next meeting.

Last month each member received an email from SEIU with instructions for completing a staffing survey. This is a confidential survey that is not shared with UWHC management. The results are only seen by the seven member SEIU labor management committee. The recent November staffing survey revealed a range of opinions about how UWHC is staffed. More than 61% of respondents said that there were staffing concerns on their unit. A few of these concerns are described in the column to your right.

Members also have the option to attend the January 2010 labor management meeting and personally speak about the staffing situation on their own unit. If you would like to do so please feel free to attend by notifying a Congress Board member. The labor management meeting is Tuesday, January 12th from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

"TAKE ACUITY INTO ACCOUNT!" and "We are short staffed daily. It is very difficult for the nurses to get lunches and/or breaks on most days. Acuity levels seem to be going up as well as the amount of procedures we are doing. Several nursing staff have recently transferred out due to unhappiness."

"There are inadequate float resources to meet our needs, often none available" "and even less float staff have been oriented to our electronic workflow."

"Unable to complete all job duties on a daily basis because of poor coverage and due to being currently down a nurse."

"I can only do the barest of technical procedures and poor charting because of all the administrative and bean counting 'requirements' now foisted upon us. I have no time for the truly nursing aspects of patient and family care. Very frustrating."

UWHCA Congress Board Co-Chairs

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The UWHC Congress Board meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at the union hall 4513 Vernon Blvd, Suite 300, Madison at 5:30 p.m.