

Speak Out Now! at Alta Bates 4-10-17

Why Work Is Harder These Days

Here are a few reasons why work is so much harder these days. It's a long list but not hard to understand. It might be worth management taking notes. Here are the reasons.

1. Staffing
2. Staffing
3. Staffing
4. Staffing
5. And also...staffing.

If This Were a Syrian Hospital

If this was a Syrian hospital there would be all the usual stuff - staffing problems, disputes with management, struggles over wages and benefits, and all the day to day frictions, gossip, friendships, and everything else. People are people, hospitals are hospitals, and even if people speak a different language and have a different culture, they are human beings like everyone else.

But if this were a Syrian hospital there wouldn't be enough medicine. There wouldn't be enough anesthetics, and there wouldn't be enough doctors because most of them have fled. And now American bombs are set to join the Russian bombs that have fallen on Syrian cities.

While the politicians chatter about national interests and puff up their chests and posture, lets remember that the majority of people are human beings just trying to live their lives, and adding bombs falling on their heads does not help one bit.

We Don't Even Need to Do A Study

The answer to many health problems experienced by workers is fairly obvious – the doctor's perscription? Work less! Medical studies have shown that workers who work more than 55 hours a week have a 33% increased chance of stroke. This isn't even to mention, diabetes, obesity, joint and back pain, etc.

It would sure be an interesting study to take a hospital where people were covered with healthcare, had their pensions, had a decent wage, and worked shorter hours. In fact. We don't need to do the study. We already know the answer! Our health requires better conditions!

Come talk to us:
Tues 6:30am-8:00am and 2:30pm-4:00pm

Under the Surface

Today we all seem to be getting along again – the workers and our unions, the doctors, and management, all working for the common good. It's an illusion. Under the surface, everyone knows that the problems are boiling, only to come out in the next project, the next policy ordered by management, or the resignation of overworked doctors. Everything looks ok now, but under the surface, the tension is building.

No Thanks, How About RESPECT

Management has sent out emails thanking and saying how appreciated we are and wonderful our work is. They are so proud of the hundreds of patients we serve in a day, and what a blessing Alta Bates is for the community.

Wait a minute! These are the same people who are paying nurses well below what nurses are paid at competing hospitals. These are the people who are planning to close the hospital, a move that the Berkeley City Council has condemned. These emails are a pat on the head after they've been kicking us. Workers don't need a thanks once in a while. We need RESPECT!

Bargaining With Our Health

When a worker get's sick, especially at a hospital, they need to call out. But we all know how it works at Alta Bates. You've get a few days where you have to use your paid time off (PTO), and then you can go on extended leave. Your sickness cuts into your time off to take care of family, kids, or yourself. They make us bargain with our health! Time off for yourself, and time off because you are sick should be totally different categories.

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"I was so tired at work, the other nurses had to revive me with C.P.R. — Coffee, Pepsi, and Redbull!"

