

# Speak Out Now at Kaiser

A workplace newsletter for Kaiser Oakland workers

January 21st, 2025

## OAKLAND HEALTHCARE WORKERS AT HIGHLAND HOSPITAL ARE STANDING UP

Workers at Highland Hospital, a fellow Oakland hospital, are currently under attack. Alameda Health System (the health system that oversees several public hospitals in Alameda County such as Highland) announced and implemented drastic layoffs in late December and early January. Their stated reason for doing this is anticipation over losses to revenue stemming from Trump's cuts to healthcare such as Medicaid. Highland sees many Medicaid patients and is projected losses in revenue. They have implemented layoffs in a haphazard fashion which has plunged the hospital into chaos. But workers are standing together and speaking out against the layoffs.

Last week's Board of Trustees meeting kicked off with over two hours of public comment against the recent layoffs, despite speakers being limited to one minute each. Speakers included AHS workers from across the whole healthcare system who stood up for their patients and demanded that the board stop these cuts. Physicians and heads of departments educated the board about how senselessly these cuts were administered, and how much harm they were doing to patients. The most powerful speakers were patients themselves, giving passionate speeches about how AHS had saved their lives.

The board replied with nothing more than a handful of questions which painfully demonstrated that they did not even understand what cuts they had made or what the implications would be.

Earlier in the day, AHS workers assembled in Sacramento to lobby our senators and demand that healthcare for our community be protected. Notably absent from this action were any members of the board or executive team, who couldn't be bothered to find a way to balance the budget other than slashing services.

AHS workers are ready to fight for the healthcare of this community! Their next planned action is the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 27th.

## PATIENT PRIVACY OUT THE WINDOW

Kaiser has agreed to settle a lawsuit over allegations they allowed private info of patients to be shared with big tech companies without patient consent. Kaiser had third party trackers on its website and app which transmitted sensitive data such as medical history to companies like Google and Meta.

After facing multiple accusers, who combined their demands in a single class-action lawsuit, Kaiser will have to pay out \$46 million in damages for this settlement to the thousands of members who had their sensitive data shared without their knowledge. This can't happen!

## THEY ARE GONE

JAHCO came and left and we are all relieved. We are tired of management reminding us they "are coming any day now" and management is happy to save their voice. We're just happy that understaffed, undertrained folks didn't have to deal with a crazy or out of the norm case that would draw more attention.

## UNAC/UHCP KAISER WORKERS SET TO STRIKE

UNAC/UHCP, which represents Kaiser Oakland workers such as rehabilitation therapists and certified registered nurse anesthetists, have announced that they will return to the picket line for an indefinite strike starting January 26 if Kaiser does not respond to their demands. The strike would take place across California and Hawaii, affecting around 20 Kaiser hospitals and 200 clinics, including Oakland.

This strike comes out of ongoing negotiations that date back to October of last year, when UNAC/UHCP workers were on a five-day strike to fight for their core contract demands of higher wages and safer staffing. However, little progress has come from negotiations since then.

Kaiser has argued that it cannot meet workers' demands for higher salaries because the cost would ultimately be passed on to patients through higher insurance premiums. This claim is pure blasphemy, as Kaiser holds around \$66 billion in reserves!

Once again, Kaiser administration prioritizes their profits over improving our working conditions in our hospital.



JOIN US AT OUR NEXT ORGANIZING MEETING:

## ICE OUT! WE CAN ORGANIZE TO DEFEND OURSELVES

We can't wait for ICE to invade and terrorize our communities.

Workers in hospitals, teachers in schools, and people in the neighborhoods have already begun to organize to stop ICE terror.

We need to learn from those experiences and join the fight.

It is up to us to defend ourselves.

**SUNDAY, FEB 1ST, 3PM  
JUDGE HENRY RAMSEY JR. CENTER  
2939 ELLIS STREET, BERKELEY**

\$5 Dollars suggested donation. No one turned away for lack of funds



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