

# Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

October 3rd, 2024

## Staff Up to Prevent Pressure Injuries

At Highland recently, management mandated that all nursing staff attend a class on preventing HAPI's, also known as "Healthcare Associated Pressure Injuries" or bedsores. Hospitals are not reimbursed for pressure injuries that develop during hospitalization, so these injuries are of serious concern to the hospital's bottom line.

Management thinks they can prevent pressure injuries by cracking down on our charting. But nurses know that pressure injuries are caused by pressure, not charting! Hospitalized patients need to be regularly repositioned to protect their skin, and this takes STAFF. We need to be fully staffed with nurses and CNAs so that we have the people-power to reposition our patients and protect their skin.

Instead of paying everyone to take a class, how about hiring more staff to actually help our patients?

## Rally for Palestine at Highland

It's been one year since Israel escalated its attacks on Palestine. And now their war has expanded to Lebanon. Join healthcare workers to demand Alameda Health System stop supporting the war and occupation in Palestine and the Middle East.

**Tuesday October 8th @ noon  
(Front Entrance)**

AHS funds are currently being spent on companies profiting from war or mass violence. Workers are gathering to demand that AHS divest from these companies. Public funds should not be spent on investing in weapons that destroy medical infrastructure and cause harm!

**Money for care, not war!**

Sign AHS workers' petition here:



## KP People Pulse: Pretending to Care

Every year, when People Pulse comes around, we know what's coming—constant reminders to fill out our forms so management can gather feedback. Surprisingly or not, the atmosphere at work becomes friendlier, with managers and administration putting on their best selves and promising pizza parties if everyone participates.

But the truth is, if you've worked at Kaiser long enough, it's hard not to get fed up with this. We know that after the smiles and constant reminders, managers will pick a few things they're "working on," and everything will remain the same. After years of People Pulse, we're still dealing with the same urgent staffing shortages across almost every department, increased pressure to do more with less, and the loss of positions and benefits that are cut and never returned.

Feedback is great, but it doesn't really have an effect. So why even bother, if it's just to give us the illusion that they really care about what we have to say?

## H<sub>2</sub>O in Oakland Schools is Still Contaminated

Local news may not be covering it, but there has been no change to the contaminated water in our Oakland public schools. Water has been shut off for nearly two months - students and staff are unable to wash their hands in the classrooms, and can only drink water from the one or two filtered water machines on campuses. Oakland Unified School District is not providing updates. Our kids deserve better!

**Cheer up, you only have to work tomorrow  
and 43 more years**



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