More Patients, More Care, Fewer Workers

Kaiser claims it is trying to fill positions to improve staffing, but this is a joke. All across the hospital and throughout the clinics we are short, but Kaiser keeps scheduling things like there is no problem. Not only has membership increased by 181,000 since December 2020, but many patients postponed needed care during the first 16 months of the pandemic and now need to make up for lost time. Admin claims they are trying to fill positions, but in reality, they are just trying to see how much work they can squeeze out of us.

Mental Healthcare for Healthcare Workers

There’s no doubt that working in healthcare can be stressful. And the constant pressure to do more with less just makes things worse. So it’s no wonder that many of us develop anxiety or other mental health struggles from the job.

But if you work at Kaiser, accessing good mental healthcare can be nearly impossible. You may wait months to see a mental health provider, or only be given the option to go to group therapy sessions. We shouldn’t have to struggle to access good mental healthcare - after all, we work in healthcare!

All I Want for Christmas is Education

At Highland Hospital it’s been almost a year since the Education Department was all but dismantled. The Education Department was responsible for keeping staff up to speed with new medical interventions, policies, and new equipment.

What used to be a department of at least four people, is now only one person. This goes to show what the priorities of those in management are: saving money at all costs, by removing the valuable resources that we need to do our jobs safely.

We shouldn’t have to ask for something as essential as this, but apparently management needs to see our wish list to do the right thing.

Thanks, But No Thanks

It’s that time of year again, when hospital administrators try to make up for a whole year of unsafe working conditions, understaffing, and overworking us by buying us a few holiday meals.

Those in management get to put on their Santa hat and sometimes even go as far as serving us the meals themselves. A big contrast from how little they “showed up” throughout the year when we were asking for higher wages to meet the cost of living, for more staff so we wouldn’t put ourselves and our patients at risk, and for safety protocols to protect us from COVID.

The reality is that while no one hates a free meal, we need A LOT more than that. So, this year, like the many before, thanks, but no thanks!

Join us for our next online Townhall

Straight Talk About COVID-19
Strategies, Developments and Innovations
Online Townhall With Dr. Monica Gandhi
Jan 22, 2022

Dr. Gandhi is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the AIDS Research at University of California San Francisco.

For more information go to our website: speakoutsocialists.org

Happy Holidays!
The newsletter will be back the week of January 17th!