The New Grinch

NUHW, the union representing mental healthcare workers, has announced that they will be going on strike starting December 13th for five days.

Mental healthcare workers are fighting to improve access to care for their patients who now have to wait six to eight weeks for appointments. This wait time has caused patients to be unnecessarily hospitalized and endangered their lives.

Kaiser was previously fined $4 million by the California Department of Managed Health Care for this, and NUHW has been forced to strike several other times. Yet Kaiser refuses to make any changes, proving they are still heartless.

Best of The Worst

Kaiser’s health plan got a five-star rating for quality mental health. Kaiser was the only health plan in California to get five stars.

So, what this means is that ALL other health plans make their patients wait more than 6-8 weeks for appointments, endanger the lives of at-risk patients, and severely understaff their behavioral health departments.

Way to go Kaiser, it must feel great to be the best of the worst!

Medium-Rare

Understaffing is something that we all deal with on a daily basis, no matter what department. It’s stressful and exhausting for us and can be dangerous for the patients. No person can do the work of two or three people without the risk of making a mistake and hurting themselves or others.

So, when managers say something like “Oh, we’re rarely understaffed…” It makes you wonder if the managers are wearing sunglasses inside the hospital. How can they not see it?

Just because understaffing is such a common practice, doesn’t mean we should ignore the problem and not talk about it.

Playing with Our Health

The American Heart Association recently recognized Kaiser's actions to "support employee health and well-being." With programs like the meditation promoting "Quiet Mind, Healthy Mind," "Snooze, You Win" for better sleep, and "Great Attitude (Gratitude)."

Kaiser claiming it cares for its employees because it creates life improvement games is like Facebook saying it values privacy while actually selling our data. Kaiser should just say it like it is: employee wellness programs are a great way for them to profit off of more productive workers who have had a bit more sleep and found gratitude that at least their lives could be worse.

If Kaiser was actually concerned about worker wellness, they would implement real changes, like properly staffing departments, not discouraging sick days, and providing all their workers with health benefits.

*Speak Out Holiday Party*

Join us for dinner, drinks, and live musical performances about working class history.

Saturday, December 14th
6pm-9pm (Dinner served at 6:30pm)
Berkeley (close to Ashby Bart)
Tickets are $5
Ask your Speak Out person for a ticket

*Holiday Break*

We are taking a break. The newsletter will be back the week of Jan 20th.

We wish you happy holidays!