

Addressing Ongoing Staffing Crisis

Nurses File Strike Notice to Combat Care Delays

Local home health and hospice nurses declared their intent to strike Feb. 1 to protect community health and safety and address the ongoing staffing crisis at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services. The two-week strike will begin Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7 a.m. and conclude Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 a.m. The more than 90 registered nurses at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services overwhelmingly voted to authorize a strike in December following nearly a year of unsuccessful contract negotiations with PeaceHealth executives including 40 bargaining sessions.

On Jan. 19, nurses delivered a strike notice to PeaceHealth executives informing them of the strike date. By providing advance notice, nurses are helping ensure current patients' care can be addressed during the strike as PeaceHealth may need to transfer patients' care to oth-



ONA nurses and supporters held an informational picket outside PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center June 7 to raise community awareness about unsafe staffing at PeaceHealth hospitals. Photo Courtesy of ONA

er home care agencies. It also gives PeaceHealth executives ample time to join nurses at the bargaining table and reach a fair agreement to prevent a strike.

Frontline nurses had planned to meet with PeaceHealth's executives and a federal mediator Jan. 23 in a good-faith effort to

try to reach a fair contract agreement and prevent a strike. Earlier this afternoon, PeaceHealth executives chose to cancel nurses' final scheduled negotiation date.

Nurses at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services are represented by the Oregon Nurs-

es Association (ONA). "Nurses are ready to do what it takes to reach a fair agreement with PeaceHealth," said Jo Turner, an ONA member and hospice nurse at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services. "All we're asking for is dignity, respect, and equal pay for the essential

care we provide to vulnerable, home-bound patients and their families every day. Our patients and our community suffer when their caregivers are ignored, exploited, and underpaid by PeaceHealth's millionaire executives. We are ready to bargain and ready to strike for our coworkers, our patients and our community."

Nearly a quarter of home care nurses have left the agency since PeaceHealth executives allowed nurses' contract to expire in April 2023. Another third of home care nurses have said they plan to leave this year if PeaceHealth refuses to agree to a fair contract.

ONA nurses at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Home Care Services play an essential, but often unseen, role in their community. They deliver hospital-quality care to patients' homes—providing a critical lifeline to sick and dying individuals and their families. They care for everyone from newborns to centenarians, keeping them out of expensive hospital beds and helping them heal after traumatic injuries or illnesses. They also deliver expert care, support and guidance when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Ride More, Pay Less

Ride all you want for just \$28/month with our reduced-fare Hop card.

Apply now at trimet.org/save

TRIMET

J&L BarBQ And More

Our Food Cart is a Soul Food cart that has Rib Dinners, Chicken Dinners, Fish Dinners, Pull Pork, Cheeseburger Meals, Specials Wednesday and Saturday OXTAILS PLATES. Meals are \$12.00-\$18.00 per plate.

Sides: Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Mac N Cheese, Collard Greens and Cornbread.

Owners: Joseph and Laurelle Quinn

Hours: 1-6PM Tuesday-Saturday
971-804-3511
Website: jlbqpd.com
Delivery Services: Grubhub and Doordash

Mention This Ad from the Portland Observer for 10% Off Your Order