

PROTECTING OUR SAFETY NET HOSPITAL

Legislation Underway to Preserve Natividad's Future

NMC members participated in our tele-town hall June 7, co-hosted by member leaders Pat Butcher and Irene Zenk. Listeners got the latest news on the future of Natividad Medical Center and what it means for workers.

Missed the call? Here's the recap:

- ◆ Pat and Irene were joined by Luisa Blue, SEIU 521 Chief of Staff, and our Assembly Member Luis Alejo.
- ◆ Speakers gave an update of Assembly Bill 276: The Central Coast Hospital Authority
- ◆ Assembly member Alejo sponsored and submitted AB 276 into the legislative process. It lays the framework for Natividad to separate from the county and form a public authority with any another healthcare agency
- ◆ 521 Chief Elected Officer Kristy Sermersheim prepared a letter of support for the Legislation (see back page)
- ◆ Our member leaders helped negotiate language in the bill that will ensure worker protections and preservation of our safety-net status.



Irene Zenk (L-R), Pat Butcher, and Luisa Blue co-host a live tele-town hall for NMC workers on June 7.

Highlights of the bill:

- ◆ This legislation is required and basically lays the ground work for what Natividad would look like if it operated as a public authority
- ◆ Regardless of whom we affiliate with, in any public hospital authority created, Local 521 members will retain our same CalPERS plan
- ◆ There will be a seamless transition for all our benefits; vacation accrual and other leaves; seniority; wages; and working conditions
- ◆ Regardless of whom we affiliate with, in any public hospital authority created, Natividad will maintain our identity as a safety-net hospital
- ◆ There will be no contracting out of Local 521 bargaining work (with certain time-limited exceptions of positions currently contracted out) Our MOU will be extended for 24 months, upon expiration in June 2013



"There are a lot of questions. And it can get nerve-racking, but now is the time that we must all stick together and focus on working toward a common goal of protecting Natividad and the services that we provide."

-Irene Zenk, Senior Secretary, Natividad Medical Center

What's next:

Whether or not we affiliate with SVMH, we are working to protect NMC and our contract. We will lobby our elected leaders to help pass AB 276 to ensure Natividad's success and protect our services.

Take action!

Help the bill pass by signing our petition at www.seiu521.org
Sign up to lobby our elected leaders in Sacramento to support the bill.
Sign up for email and text message updates at www.seiu521.org
Come to our union meeting, Wednesday, June 27.



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CTW-CLC

SAN JOSE H.Q.

2302 Zanker Road
San Jose, CA 95131

Phone: 408-678-3300
Fax: 408-954-1538

Phone: 408-678-3398
(Vendors)

BAKERSFIELD

1001 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Phone: 661-321-4160
Fax: 661-325-7814

FRESNO

5228 E. Pine Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

Phone: 559-447-2560
Fax: 559-261-9308

HANFORD

101 N. Irwin St., Suite 205
Hanford, CA 93230

Phone: 559-587-1521
Fax: 559-582-3510

SALINAS

HOLLISTER

334 Monterey Street
Salinas, CA 93901

Phone: 831-784-2560
Fax: 831-757-1863

Phone: 831-636-3455
Fax: 831-636-0787
(Hollister)

SAN CARLOS

981 Industrial Rd., Suite A
San Carlos, CA 94070

Phone: 650-801-3500
Fax: 650-595-1930

SANTA CRUZ

WATSONVILLE

517B Mission Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone: 831-824-9255
Fax: 831-459-0756

Fax: 831-724-9095
(Watsonville)

VISALIA

1811 W. Sunnyside Avenue
Visalia, CA 93277

Phone: 559-635-3720
Fax: 559-733-5006

www.seiu521.org



June 7, 2012

Honorable Luis A. Alejo
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0028

Dear Assemblymember Alejo:

Service Employees International Union Local 521, a public sector union representing 57,000 workers in 17 counties, supports AB 276. The Central Coast Hospital Authority Act authorizes Natividad Medical Center, Monterey County's public hospital, to affiliate or combine with another Monterey County health care facility and create a public hospital authority by Board of Supervisors ordinance. SEIU members who provide care at Natividad and its clinics are dedicated to helping our safety net hospital system prepare for health care reform; we believe that AB 276 can be an important building block in that preparedness.

Monterey County's safety net health care system of Natividad, public and private clinics, and in-home assistance faces many similar challenges with other counties in preparing for health care reform: how to increase capacity to care for all those newly eligible, while at the same time further integrating primary, hospital, and community care, and demonstrating improvements on quality and efficiency standards. SEIU members are closely involved at all levels because we want to make sure that the community's safety net hospital - which celebrated its 125th birthday last year - stays strong for another 125 years.

AB 276 establishes the framework for a possible Monterey County public hospital authority. Any authority created will continue the safety net mission of Natividad, including serving low-income residents and populations with special needs. By agreement with the County, it will have access to designated public hospital funds to improve the safety net system of care. AB 276 also ensures that Natividad employees transferring from county to authority status will have a seamless transition of their wages, benefits, and contracts, without loss of rights or status. It will give the authority a strong basis to recruit and retain the skilled, experienced staff needed to meet the challenges and opportunities of health care reform.

Thank you for your leadership on health care reform preparedness for Monterey County's health care safety net, and for your commitment to Natividad workers having a voice in that process. We look forward to working with you as AB 276 progresses.

Sincerely,

Kristina M. Sermersheim
Chief Elected Officer
SEIU Local 521