



Community First @ KMC

June 2014

Service Employees International Union

Kern Medical Center

Where Are We At?

Kern County has a major irreplaceable asset in Kern Medical Center, and county leaders finally appear ready to address the hospital's financial issues. In the short term, cuts and layoffs may be necessary and KMC employees who are on the front line need to be part of the discussion as we go forward to create a plan for KMC's future.

First and foremost, we must look at where we can cut that does not harm quality patient care.

If the options are to close KMC or transfer it over to a hospital authority, we must be ready to be advocates for our community and make sure KMC still stands.

The new world under the Affordable Care Act gives the county a brand new opportunity to shape and strengthen KMC. We need a long-term vision for KMC that calls for investment and improvements, not just the short term plan of cuts and layoffs.

We Have a Plan

◆ **Layoffs**

We have formed a Member Leadership Committee to work directly with Russell Judd and management on changes to the hospital including minimizing the impacts of layoffs and maximizing county resources.

◆ **KMC faces increased competition for patients**

We need to keep our existing patients while attracting new patients. We have a Quality Committee where workers will develop and implement plans to improve quality and attract patients.

◆ **Hospital Authority (AB 2546)**

If done right, an authority would strengthen KMC by protecting workers while at the same time increasing KMC's ability to compete and improve services to the community. SEIU 521 worked with Assembly Member Rudy Salas on the bill and we will be monitoring it closely as it goes before the state Legislature.

◆ **Community First**

Our priority is to strengthen and preserve KMC as a public safety net hospital serving everyone. We believe KMC should be here for the next generation; and we need to work with the community to think through the best strategies that preserve KMC for the future.



"The model of the hospital we are today can't be the model as we move forward."

— Russell Judd, KMC CEO

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Advocating for Our Community

SEIU Local 521 members make the difference!

KERN MEDICAL CENTER

As county leaders consider different scenarios for KMC’s future – including shutting it down or privatizing it – SEIU 521 members took action to work with Assembly Member Rudy Salas to draft a bill [AB 2546] that would protect services and workers’ rights in the event the county turns the hospital over to a hospital authority.



“[Supervisor Leticia Perez said] ... the county and SEIU, its largest employee union, have been working closely to find ways to transform ... KMC's governing structure to make it more nimble and competitive in the modern hospital marketplace.”
– The Bakersfield Californian

COURT TRANSPARENCY

When a group of SEIU Local 521 Superior Court workers from the Central Valley drove more than 200 miles to Sacramento last year to speak before the Judicial Council, they were barred from doing so because they had not put in a request four days prior to the meeting.

We strongly objected and contacted the governor and legislative leaders about the arcane rule that restricts public participation during public meetings of the Judicial Council, the policy-making body that oversees California courts.

RESULT: Policy was changed so that any person from the public may now use the public comment period to address the Council.

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Let your voice be heard!



“There are financial issues at KMC but none of them are insurmountable. As we move forward with this conversation, we hope that we can all agree on one thing – that we will put community first and strengthen KMC for the long term. “



Carmen Morales, RN



“KMC can’t just be a safety net hospital or the hospital of last resort. We should seize this opportunity to make KMC one of Kern County’s hospitals of choice.”

**Beverly Langella,
Health Information Supervisor**



**Carmen Morales and Beverly Langella
with Dolores Huerta**

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KERN ELIGIBILITY WORKERS

Kern eligibility workers worked hard to make sure that when call centers expanded under ACA, county workers would remain a one-stop shop for all our residents' eligibility needs. We did an amazing job getting people enrolled in Covered California – more than 3 million ! - and are still working to make sure that everyone who calls gets the best services available.



“Bringing health insurance and health care to so many Californians is a big achievement that was accomplished in no small measure by the work of our employees ... county partners and community organizations who spread the word about this historic initiative.”

– Peter Lee, Covered CA Executive Director

RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR ALL

Americans are in the midst of a retirement crisis. A secure retirement is out of reach for a growing number of working families, and too many of us are in danger of not having enough retirement savings to pay for food, medicine and housing.

SEIU Local 521 is working to strengthen our social security system, reform public pensions and help deliver retirement security for more Californians. We successfully worked with state Senator Kevin DeLeòn who last year sponsored the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust Act, aimed at the 6.3 million Californians, mostly lower and middle-income workers, who have no access to a retirement plan at work, by providing them a portable and reliable retirement plan that will serve as a modest supplement to Social Security.



JOIN THE WINNING TEAM TODAY!

www.seiu521.org/pension-committee



Let your voice be heard!



“We need everyone to support a strong KMC that puts Community First and uses all the talents that this board, KMC Management Inc. and SEIU can bring. KMC employees are not a liability. We are part of the solution.”

Rosie Kidwell, Program Specialist II

“At the end of the day, any structure that builds our hospital and our community will have the full support of SEIU members.”

Jeff Rockholt, RN



Carmen Morales and Jeff Rockholt assist a member of the public in signing up for health insurance





We're On the Web!



Email & Text Updates

www.seiu521.org/kmc

facebook

facebook.com/KMC4All

twitter

@SEIU521

Community First @ KMC

June 2014

KMC Member Committees: Join Today!



Patient Quality Care Committee:

To Improve the patient experience at KMC with an emphasis on quality in delivery of services. This committee's goal is to have a positive impact on quality scores at KMC which would result in increased revenue for the hospital.

Want to Join this Committee? Contact: Teneya Johnson at (559) 635-3731 teneya.johnson@seiu521.org

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee will be reviewing the financial information for Kern Medical Center as well as the County. This committee will do budget analysis work and provide support for the KMC Leadership Team as they work through impact negotiations with Russell Judd.

Want to Join this Committee? Contact Ramona Faucette at (661)321-4172 ramona.faucette@seiu521.org

Member Action Committee:

This is the member mobilization team for the campaign. The member action committee is responsible for engaging membership in worksite actions/meetings that support the overall campaign. In addition committee members maintain a network of communication between membership and other leadership committees.

Want to Join this Committee? Contact Marlene Valdez at (661) 321-4170 marlene.valdez@seiu521.org

Legislative Committee:

The Legislative Committee will work with local and state legislators to strengthen Kern Medical Center for our community. Committee is responsible for engaging with the Board of Supervisors, State Legislators and key stakeholders within Kern County and at the state level.

Want to Join This Committee? Contact Ann Cervantes at (661) 321-4162 ann.cervantes@seiu521.org

Communications Committee:

Learn and train others at KMC to talk to the media and their coworkers about the importance of KMC. Serve as the conduit for information both internally and externally.

Want to Join This Committee? Contact Tom Webster at (661) 321-4163 tom.webster@seiu521.org

Next membership meeting...

All Kern Medical Center Employees are encouraged to attend.

KMC General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 4 Kern Medical Center
3:30 p.m. Room #1065



Get informed!

Pick up the phone on June 5



For the latest updates on changes at KMC and the county, SEIU Local 521 members are invited to participate in a town hall via telephone on JUNE 5 at 6 P.M.

Make sure we have your phone number – that is how we call you and “patch” you into the live conversation on June 5. Go online and enter your contact info at:

WWW.SEIU521.org/kmc