



# KERN REGIONAL CENTER CONTRACT UPDATE

Working people standing together

**Nov. 16, 2016**

## Fighting for our union

### A message from our Bargaining Team Leader, Maria Salinas:

Our community came together last night at the KRC board meeting. We stood up for ourselves and the people we serve. Over 50 supporters came out and we had seven people share stories and call on the board to get more involved. Members and clients want this board to lead and because of our action, the new board president has taken an interest in the fact that management has different numbers for bargaining and board meetings.

In bargaining on Monday, management told us that KRC was facing a \$650,000 deficit. At the board meeting, management changed the number to \$385,000. There was no explanation for the difference. We know this is unacceptable, but the board won't know unless we tell them.

We'll continue to educate the board and build the pressure both in Kern County and at the state level so we can get a contract that invests in quality services.

One of our co-workers, Jaime Barga, was proud of the unity we showed at the board meeting. "Our staff here is great. We help the most vulnerable people in our community and we've stuck it out at KRC through a lot. The board needs to understand that their decisions impact real people who deliver vital services. When they try to pay for the mistakes of management by making our lives harder, it hurts our community."

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the Unity Breaks on Monday.** Your courage is appreciated by the bargaining team and shows that we have power when we stand together. It is very important that we reach an agreement that benefits not only the staff of Kern Regional Center but also supports the clients and their families.

If you have questions, feel free to approach anyone from the Negotiations Team to obtain the most current and accurate information. We are here to answer your questions.

Once again thank you all for your support!

Maria E. Salinas, M.S.

Service Coordinator

**When we stand together, we are unstoppable!**



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