



SEIU Local 521 members take leadership to improve services and jobs

SEIU Local 521 member leaders met with Santa Clara County Executive Jeff Smith, Linda Smith, Bob Garner, Dan Peddycord and other top executive managers from all the departments in the Health and Hospital System to develop a plan where workers can be involved in improving healthcare services and healthcare reform implementation.

SEIU Local 521 members understand the need for healthcare reform to be implemented successfully because patients' health and the livelihood of all Health and Hospital System workers depend on it.

At the Dec. 15 meeting management agreed to:

- Work with SEIU Local 521 members to implement healthcare reform
- Work together to educate Health and Hospital workers on the many aspects of healthcare reform
- Create a joint committee (SEIU 521 members and management) to identify areas where we can work together, such as workforce development, quality improvement, and patient satisfaction.



“ If we want our public healthcare system to not only succeed but also to thrive under healthcare reform, it is critical that we have a seat at the table and help make decisions. We are gratified to see the county also understands this and is working with us. Remember to stay involved, ask lots of questions, and together we can build the best healthcare system for our community. ”

– Martin Contreras, Senior Health Services Rep (VMC - Quality Management)

NEXT STEP: Select a member committee to work with management to develop common principles that will guide our work and to identify priority projects that will help with the transformation of the health system.

Interested in healthcare reform? Contact your Worksite Organizer and join our SEIU Local 521 Healthcare Reform Committee. **Next meeting will be Wednesday, January, 18, 5:30 p.m., at VMC Cafeteria Conference Room (2nd Floor).**

Anne Stewart
anne.stewart@seiu521.org

Debbie Silva
debbie.silva@seiu521.org

Bernie DeArman
Bernie.DeArman@seiu521.org



SEIU Local 521 partners with county on healthcare *“Stakeholders Working Group”*

Working Partnerships USA to facilitate group’s healthcare reform work

Starting January 2012, a Stakeholders Working Group will begin meeting to provide input and feedback—as well as make recommendations—to Santa Clara County on healthcare policy to strengthen the delivery system in the county, which includes Valley Medical Center and its associated clinics and partner agencies.

The Working Group will meet twice a month and will perform detailed reviews of healthcare reform issues. It will also seek community input at town hall forums to be scheduled at least quarterly.

Note: All meetings will be open to the public.

Initial issues that have been identified to receive early attention by the Working Group include, but are not limited to:

- Examine what the county health system can do to best compete under the new healthcare environment which include:
 - Increase access to healthcare services for county residents
 - Changes to healthcare workforce
 - Integration and coordination of services across the health system
 - Other issues as identified

As a partner, SEIU Local 521 has two seats on the Working Group

SEIU Local 521 is seeking two members to represent us on this Working Group. Anyone interested should consider the following:

- The Working Group plans to meet often for at least one year. Candidates should have strong commitment to attend meetings for at least a year.
- Demonstrated commitment to learning about the overall principles of Health Care Reform specifically how these impact Santa Clara County health care services and the workforce. This will include committing to attending union trainings and orientations on the subject.
- There is an SEIU Local 521 Healthcare Reform Member Committee currently in place and candidates will be required to report back to this committee and chapter leadership on the work of the Working Group.

If you are interested in representing SEIU Local 521 in this Working Group, please contact your Internal Worksite Organizer at the email located below. Two permanent representatives along with two alternates will be selected at our next Health Care Reform Committee Meeting to which candidates are encouraged to attend. **The meeting will be held Wed., Jan. 18 at 5:30 p.m., at VMC Cafeteria Conference Room (2nd Floor).**

Anne Stewart anne.stewart@seiu521.org	Debbie Silva debbie.silva@seiu521.org	Bernie DeArman Bernie.DeArman@seiu521.org
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