

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

February 2019



RNs Demand Safety at St. Elizabeths Hospital

On February 12th, nearly 50 nurses attended the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) oversight hearing at the DC Council before the Committee of Health convincing Committee Chair Vincent Gray to require St. Elizabeths Hospital's management to make changes to protect nurses from the attacks. Nurses stood up holding up the picture of the Nurse Lateefat

Ayodeji-Coker who was brutally beaten by a patient while on duty at St. Elizabeths. Nurse Coker testified and provided details on her attack and how her brutal attack could have been avoided if St. Elizabeths had an enclosed nursing unit, panic button installed in the back of the nursing station and if the patient was held in an adequate restraint bed. DBH Unit President Tinuola Shokunbi and DBH Unit Vice President Susan Nelson testified that nurses were weary of empty promises and reminded the DC Council that many of the safety measures that could have protected Nurse Coker was promised years before but never implemented. Councilman Gray demanded that St. Elizabeths CEO, Mark Chastang, meet with DCNA and provide a

report to the Committee by March 15th.



On February 20th, DCNA met with Mr. Chastang and listed many changes that

needed to be addressed to protect the nurses, including staffing, security, enclosed nursing units, adequate restraint beds, panic buttons, exits in the back of the nursing station, improving nurse safety training and more. On February 28th, St. Elizabeths' management and Mr. Chastang provided an outline for installing enclosures on 5 intensive care nursing units, safety phone and water fountains outside the units, Code 13 and training updates and more. The next meeting is March 7th. You can view more at facebook.com/dcnursesassociation.

Negotiations Update

Delay in DBH and Comp 13 Contract

The Mayor's Office and the Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining (OLRCB) has delayed processing the compensation Collective Bargaining Agreements for both DBH and Compensation 13 units. The arbitrator issued the consent award for the arbitrations for both units on November 16, 2018. Since then, the Mayor's Office and OLRCB has been gathering the final versions of the contracts for final review to be presented before the DC Council for final approval. DCNA has inquired weekly and was informed by OLRCB that the contract had to be reviewed for legal sufficiency and a Fiscal Impact Statement from the Office of Chief Financial Officer. DCNA is preparing for an action to ensure that the process for finalizing the contracts is expedited. DC law requires the Mayor to submit contract settlements within 60 days to the DC Council.

UMC

DCNA and UMC will commence negotiations in late March. The issues that will be negotiated are the following: annual pay increases, specialty pay, patient ratios/staffing, increases to education benefits, scheduling concerns, floating limitations, increase in premium pay, streamlining the disciplinary process and job security measures.



Nurses at Black Nurses Association Annual Scholarship Gala and Evening with Labor

On March 2nd, DCNA leaders attended two major annual events: the Black Nurses Association luncheon and the Metropolitan Labor Council, AFL-CIO night



with Labor. DCNA attends these important events each year to show our support and to keep our voices heard in the community.

DCNA Joins RNs from across the US to March in Selma, AL



Upcoming Events

DCNA Board of Directors' & E&GW Cabinet Meeting, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, Wednesday, March 20th, commencing at 5:30 pm. These meetings are open to all DCNA members. If you plan on attending, please contact Ms. Vickie Spence at vspence@dcna.org.

Labor Relations Training, DCNA, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, March 20th, 5pm to 8pm. DCNA will be conducting training on investigating and processing grievances and other representational matters. Please contact Ms. Vickie Spence at vspence@dcna.org or Walakewon Blegay, Esq. at wblegay@dcna.org to register for the training.

Please visit DCNA on our website at www.dcna.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DCNursesAssociation.

For Assignment Despite Objection and Grievance forms, visit www.dcna.org.

DCNA is located at 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016. Telephone – (202) 244-2705