

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

November 2017



DCNA Steps Up Fight for UMC Contract

It is now nearly six months since Arbitrator Sean Rogers issued an award ordering the District of Columbia and United Medical Center to implement DCNA's proposals on wage increases, self-scheduling, safe staffing and other provisions of the new contract. Mayor Bowser continues to refuse to submit the contract to the DC Council, leaving nurses without a contract and without a raise now for nearly six years.

DCNA calls on nurses, health care professionals, other union members, the community and any person concerned with the health care delivered at UMC, to join us in a rally at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, from 11:00am-12:30pm, on December 7th.

DCNA Executive Director, Edward J. Smith, remarked:

This Mayor, for the first time in my recollection of DC labor history, has decided she is above the law and need not follow the simple provisions of the law to submit and fund public sector contracts to the DC Council for review. This decision could set precedent for any future public sector arbitration award, including awards involving teachers, police officers, firefighters and nearly 10,000 blue and white collar District Government employees. Labor cannot ignore this naked power grab. We must stand together and fight the Mayor.

RALLY INFORMATION:

DATE: December 7, 2017
TIME: 11:00am- 12:30pm
LOCATION: 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Free Bus Transportation from UMC leaving at 9:30am.

RSVP at wblegay@dcna.org or at 202-244-2705.

DCNA Schedules Meetings with DC Councilmembers over UMC Contract

DCNA continues to seek meetings with DC Councilmembers in an effort to gain support for the submission of the UMC contract to the DC Council. Councilmember Vincent Gray (D – Ward 7) has agreed to speak at the DCNA rally on December 7th and has made clear his belief that the Mayor needs to adhere to DC law and submit to the DC Council and fund this agreement. He does not understand why the Mayor has refused to do so.

DCNA has submitted formal requests to meet with every member of the DC Council and expects to meet with many, including Chairman Phil Mendelson, on December 7th, after the rally.

DC Government Nurses Attend Training

On November 28th, DCNA members from the DC Healthcare Finance Agency attended a nurse training class presented by National Nurses United - Nursing In A New Era: Learning and Applying Structural Competency.



40 Hour School Nurse Legislation Nearing Final Passage

Nearly one year after introduction of Public School Health Services Amendment Act of 2017, B22-0027, to require 40 hours of nurse care in DC schools, the DC Council on November 7th, passed unanimously a first vote on the legislation. A final vote is expected to come up on December 5th. Unfortunately, during a Public Oversight hearing before the DC Council Committee on Health, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, HyeSook Chung, refused to support the bill. The Department of Health continues to maintain that, despite overwhelming opposition from parents, teachers and nurses, nursing services can be provided not only by nurses, but support staff. DCNA continues to support passage of the legislation and will continue to lobby the Mayor to insure funding to allow for hiring of additional LPNs and RNs.

No Guaranty of Reopening Labor & Delivery Services at UMC

On November 15th and November 21st, the DC Council Committee on Health held a public hearing regarding the oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services. During such hearing, Deputy Mayor HyeSook Chung would not guaranty that United Medical Center will reopen labor and delivery services. In August 2017, the Department of Health required UMC to temporarily close down the L&D department. Subsequently, UMC laid off over twenty RNs. The Deputy Mayor advised that UMC received an extension of time to February 2018 in order to comply with Department of Health requirements.

The Deputy Mayor also refused to advise Councilmember Vincent Gray whether or when the District would seek additional money to provide to UMC to assist in operating the hospital. Moreover, Deputy Mayor Chung was unable to answer any specific questions relating to the funding of the DCNA/UMC contract. Despite numerous attempts by Councilmember Gray to query about which specific acts have been taken to comply with the contract, Ms. Chung repeatedly referred all questions to the Mayor's City Administrator. An exasperated Mr. Gray finally stated "I can't imagine that someone in your position of responsibility would not have been given information ... with respect to how this issue is going to be resolved." Ms. Young chose not to reply to the comment. As reported earlier, the City Administrator stated that the District's Chief Financial Officer was unable to certify that UMC had funding to implement the contract. Despite the Mayor's attempts to confuse the issue, it is abundantly clear that the Mayor simply has chosen not to fund the contract as required by law.

Upcoming Events:

Shop Steward Training, DCNA, 5100 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, Tuesday, December 5th, 10am to 2:30pm. Refreshments will be provided. This training is limited to first time shop stewards. Please RSVP with Staff Attorney Wala Blegay at wblegay@dcna.org.

DCNA Board of Directors & E&GW Cabinet Meeting, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20016, Tuesday, December 19th, 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. DCNA offices will also be open for voting on proposed changes to the DCNA By-Laws, from 4:00-8:00 pm.

Executive Director Edward Smith hosts "Your Rights at Work," Every Thursday from 1-2pm on WPFW, FM89.3 or www.wpfwfm.org. If you miss the live show – or want to hear a past show – Your Rights At Work is now available as a podcast! Just search for Your Rights At Work on iTunes or wherever you get your podcasts; subscribe and you'll get our shows right on your phone

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