

DCNA Together – Making a Difference in DC

October 2014



DCNA Press Conference: Ebola – Friday October 24th

On Friday, October 24, 2014, leaders of DCNA urged Mayor Gray to issue mandatory standards on procedures for all health care institutions and emergency responders to adhere to in order to ensure the safety of patients, workers and the community in preparing for Ebola. News organizations from around the globe attended the event and interviewed DCNA.



We asked the Mayor to direct health care institutions to institute at least the following measures:

- Personal protective equipment for Ebola that meets or exceeds the standards utilized by the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This includes the use of Full body Hazmat suits with OSHA approved powered air purifying respirators with a protection factor of 50 or above, or a higher standard, as appropriate.
- Negative pressure isolation rooms with an anteroom for changing personal protective

equipment.

- Continuous, interactive training with workers who are exposed to patients, including updates responsive to the changing nature of the Ebola virus.
- Requiring that at least two direct care registered nurses care for each Ebola patient, with additional registered nurses assigned if the direct care RNs believe is necessary, based upon their professional judgment.



For more information on Ebola, please visit <http://ebola.dc.gov> and reference the section on “Clinicians and Health Care Providers.”

Additional information, including our press release and the full text of the letter sent to Mayor Gray, is posted on www.dcna.org

DCNA will also be discussing this issue on WFW on Friday morning (see Events p.2).

Compensation Unit 13 Election

On October 14, 2014, Acting Executive Director Ed Smith certified the results of the Compensation Unit 13 elections. Members voted in outstanding numbers (over 80% participation) and elected the following as officers: President – Ms. Olubukunola Alao; Vice President – Dr. Bonita Jenkins; Secretary – Ms. Jeanine Carter; and Chief Shop Steward – Ms. Adrian Crowe. Congratulations! DCNA represents registered nurses in various agencies in the Government of the District of Columbia, including the Child and Family Services Agency, the Department on Disabilities, the Department of Health, the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services, the Health Care Finance Agency and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer. DCNA will post contact information on the website in the near future.

Negotiations Update

Compensation Unit 13/Dept. of Behavioral Health

DCNA and the District are close to reaching a tentative agreement on compensation issues for Fiscal Years 2015-2017. The agreement should maintain all benefits currently enjoyed and provides for wage increases of 3% for each year, beginning retroactive to October 1, 2014. DCNA will be scheduling a membership ratification vote as soon as final agreement is reached.

Children's School Services

The parties agreed to meet and exchange proposals on November 14th. DCNA is seeking to address inequities in pay for RNs with similar nursing experience. DCNA will also present proposals strengthening employee rights involving transferring between schools, expanding tuition assistance and maintaining current health and retirement benefits.

Community Support for DC Healthy Start

On October 21, 2014, a group of community activists met with DCNA and AFGE at the Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE, Washington DC, to start an ad hoc committee committed to saving DC Healthy Start. Some of the ideas discussed included reaching out to DC grassroots community leaders and churches in Wards 7 and 8, having representatives speak at local community events on the importance of DC Healthy Start and circulating PSAs on popular DC radio stations such as 93.9, 95.5, 102.3 and 96.3. The committee has weekly conference calls to discuss next steps to save DC Healthy Start. **On October, 29, 2014, AFGE Local No. 2978 and the committee voted to host a lunchtime rally in front of the John A. Wilson Building to protest the closure of DC Healthy Start on Monday, November 3, 2014 at noon.** We need all DCNA members to assist in efforts to save the jobs of our members who work under the DC Healthy Start program. They need volunteers to make signs and get the word out. Please contact Wala Blegay at wblegay@dcna.org, if you are interested in participating in these efforts.

Events

DCNA on the radio: Friday, October 31, 2014, from approximately 9:10-9:40am, WPFW, 89.3. DCNA President Ms. Margaret Shanks and Acting Executive Director Edward J. Smith will be discussing Ebola preparedness with Mr. Bill Fletcher on his weekly show "ARISE." Please listen to DCNA discuss the most up to date information on this important issue.

DCNA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm. The Annual Meeting will be held at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive; Greenbelt, MD. At the meeting, DCNA will conduct the election for officers and hold its annual Silent Auction to benefit the DCNA Needy Nurses Fund. Registration information has been sent via email and mail. **Please be sure to fill out the Registration Form and submit it to the office before the deadline.** Dinner and live music will help round out the event.



United Medical Center

DCNA and UMC met on October 29th and exchanged proposals. DCNA is seeking safe nurse staffing levels and wages that are competitive with area hospitals. DCNA is also proposing the adoption of a RN clinical ladder. UMC, on the other hand, is proposing cutbacks in the accumulation and retention of earned annual leave. It is also proposing performance based increases in pay.



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.

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