

Union Update



for OPEIU Local 8 members at Sea Mar

Today, we delivered a strong message to Sea Mar:

Employees will not accept draconian measures such as wage freezes without evaluating Sea Mar's financial data and seeing common-sense reductions to executive pay. It is unfair, inequitable, and unacceptable to expect the lowest-paid employees to bear the brunt of this economic downturn through furloughs and wage freezes while executive leaders continue to remain financially whole. Sea Mar leadership needs to lead by example and share in the sacrifices during tough times.

To Regilio Rojas, Mary Bartolo, and Mike Long, May 15, 2020

We, the front-line employees, work hard to uphold Sea Mar's mission of exceptional service, every patient, every time. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread in Washington State, we, as healthcare workers, are stepping up to serve our community during a public health emergency unlike any we've seen in our lifetimes. We inspire Leadership to do your part to support the front-line workers who are providing care to our patients.

Sea Mar refuses to allow many employees to work from home despite explicit recommendations from the CDC and Washington's Governor. Some teams have been given the permission and technology to work from home while others are still being asked to come into their workplaces unnecessarily, even though they have access to the technology to work remotely. Sea Mar should maximize all telecommute options at this time for all departments that can work remotely and give equal opportunity to employees to work from the safety of their homes. This is the safest option for staff and the best way for Sea Mar to do its part to flatten the curve.

As mandates have come down to decrease non-emergent care, allow for proper social distancing, and some patient volumes have decreased, Sea Mar has forced many of us to work reduced hours. This has created great financial hardship for us and our families. We are struggling to survive. We can't afford to buy food and pay our rent while Sea Mar leadership continues to receive their full and hefty salaries.

While we understand the need to reduce costs during these uncertain times, we believe in shared sacrifice. You can't place the burden of saving the organization on the backs of its lowest paid workers. Now more than ever, it's time to lead by example. We want all of Sea Mar's top leadership, including all Chief Officers and Vice Presidents, to take an immediate reduction in pay. This temporary pay cut should remain in effect throughout this crisis and until every Sea Mar employee has their hours restored and receives wage increases.



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We had mediation twice this week with Sea Mar Management and we are scheduled to

meet again on Monday next week.

Your Bargaining Team

Rebecca Gonzalez, BH Financial Specialist, Vancouver BH
Kevin Menten, Care Coordinator, Vancouver
Nora Lagos, Customer Service Rep, Bellevue
Crystal Helsel, Dental Assistant, Vancouver WIC
Francis Tarango, Dental Assistant III, Mt Vernon
Maria Aguilar, Teacher II, Seattle
Julie Rasmussen, Community Health Worker, Marysville
Helen Angell, Health Educator I (Teacher/BA), White Center
Noah Chasco, HIM Clerk, Bellingham
Amanda Xanthoudakis, Medical Assistant, Certified, Salmon Creek
Marketta Ferguson, Medical Assistant, Certified, Tacoma 11th Street Medical (homeless)
Marilee Bowden, Medical Billing Specialist III, Federal Way
Mary Crowe, Licensed IMHT – Mental Health Therapist (Integrated), Vancouver BH
Laura Farley, Mental Health Therapist III, CSNW, Town Plaza

If you have questions, contact your Union Rep:

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