



We're Standing Strong and United

Hundreds of us picketed for safe staffing and affordable healthcare

Yesterday we gathered in large numbers outside our hospital to picket for safe staffing, retention, and affordable healthcare. More of us than ever before participated in our picket! We brought our kids, our dogs and our energy, and we filled the sidewalk in front of the hospital. Elected officials, community supporters, and leaders from around the labor movement joined with us to hold CHI accountable to this community.



Our Mobile Billboard visited our picket and will be driving around the hospital and main intersections in Burien in the coming days. It is also visiting the millionaire executives at CHI Franciscan's corporate headquarters in Tacoma.



Several local media outlets — including Q-13, KIRO Radio, the Seattle Times, and others — were at hand to interview our co-workers and provide coverage.

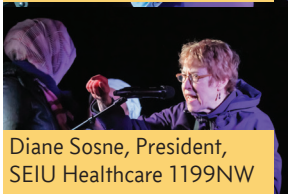
Elected officials and community and union leaders joined in our picket and spoke at our rally:



King County Council Member Dave Upthegrove



Retired Highline coworkers, including Brent Morgan, RN; Kathy White, RN



Diane Sosne, President, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW



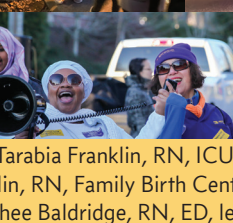
Burien City Council Member Pedro Olguin



Burien City Council Member Kevin Schilling



Jon Holden, President, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 751



RNs Tarabia Franklin, RN, ICU; Sara Moallin, RN, Family Birth Center; and Marghee Baldrige, RN, ED, led our rally



Sandy Hunt, President, Highline Education Association



Fellow SEIU Healthcare 1199NW leaders from Swedish Medical Center, Northwest Hospital, Cascade Behavioral Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital (CHI Franciscan) and Kaiser Permanente

We know from the strength of our picket that we are strong, we are united, and we will not stop until we reach a contract agreement that does right by our families and our patients.



“I am out here for my family and community. The changes here are not good. It is important that we keep our affordable healthcare. The other plans are too expensive!”
Maria Guerra-Luna, EVS Tech, Environmental Services



“I am here for my family and affordable healthcare. I use the Zenith Plan for my entire family. Without the Zenith plan, my costs would go up by about \$140 every paycheck, and I’ve had my kids with the same provider since they were born. I will stand by my coworkers and my union to take further action if need be in order to keep my family healthy.”
Salimah Osman, RN, Family Birth Center



“Everything in bargaining is important to me: wages, staffing better for our patients’ care needs, and to have a better place to work. I live in the city of Fife, but I am here in Burien because I love my job, my community, my patients, and I enjoy working with my coworkers. I showed up today with them because all of these things are important to us and our families”.
Rania Adam, CNA, Float Pool



“I am Nina, and I work at Highline for 18 years. The patients in our hospital need good food to nourish their bodies from us in the Dietary Department. We want management to give us cooks in the kitchen for our patients to get well.” **Nina Hao Ni, Cook, Dietary**

In spite of CHI, we are making Highline a better place to work

It is outrageous that the Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce—of which CHI Franciscan COO Russell Woolley is a board member—voted Highline the recipient of its “best place to work” award just last week. With literally hundreds of staff leaving Highline over the past three years—we have trained dozens of resident nurses who get the minimum experience in a specialty before leaving to work at a higher-paying, better-work environment hospital—it is insulting that CHI’s administration is so out of touch with the reality of what it is actually like to work here.

However—what we know from our picket is that our community members in Burien, SeaTac, White Center, Des Moines, and the surrounding communities are not taken in by CHI’s slick advertising. They stand with us, the nurses who care for them at the bedside, the caregivers who deliver their food, clean their rooms, draw their blood, walk them to the bathroom. They stand with us in calling on CHI to do right by Highline’s caregivers and patients. We have what is right on our side and we will continue to stand for safe staffing and a secure future for our families.

Bargaining Update

The day before our picket we met with management for bargaining. We made some progress in two areas:

- Management came to their senses and withdrew their takeaway to per diem pay. This insulting takeaway was a sign of disrespect to the valued co-workers who fill in the holes caused by management’s poor staffing. It was the right move for management to abandon this idea.
- Management heard some of our concerns regarding needed improvements to our service co-workers’ pay steps. We are making progress in adding steps to the service pay scale and raising up the very bottom wage, which was too low to recruit into vacancies — for instance, in Environmental Services.

However, as we told management at bargaining, even with management’s improved approach in these two areas, their proposals—takeaways to retirement and healthcare security, a continually threatened takeaway of our Training Fund, minimal across-the-board raises and no commitments to staffing improvements in our contract other than that management will “try”—still move us backward. We will not accept a contract agreement that moves Highline backward.

Our next bargaining date is December 12. If management does not come on December 12 with new proposals on staffing, wages, and benefits that reflect a commitment to repair their relationship with caregivers and work together to ensure every Highline patient receives safe care, we will continue to escalate our action for a fair contract agreement.

