



Public Employees Union, Local One

THE UNION FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
ORGANIZED 1941

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Local 1 / Contra Costa County Healthcare Reopener Update 5/12/2015

On May 12, 2015, the Local 1 negotiating team again met with the County negotiators. The County continued to delay in approving Local 1's draft ground rules, which Local 1 presented to the County at the first session. Local 1 called out the County's failure to approve those ground rules, stating it was an obvious delay tactic. The County stated it preferred to model the ground rules for these negotiations on the ground rules used by the parties in 2008. In order to speed up the process, Local 1 asked the County to email their proposed ground rules prior to the next meeting.

Local 1 questioned the County negotiators on information they had provided to Local 1 in response to a request for information about healthcare. At the session, the County also passed information on the Contra Costa County Health Plan (CCHP), including member demographics. Local 1 indicated additional requests for information would be forthcoming.

Local 1 talked about the gravity of these negotiations and expressed the need for more frequent meeting dates. Local 1 demanded additional dates for bargaining, and the County agreed to add three (3) additional bargaining dates to the schedule, one in July and an additional two dates in August. Local 1 also demanded additional release time for Local 1 negotiators so that we could spend time crafting proposals. The County indicated Local 1 was requesting more bargaining time than the last negotiations, to which Local 1 responded, "It's a new day." The County stated that request would have to be put in writing, and they would get back to us.

Local 1 asked for the County's commitment on securing affordable, quality and sustainable healthcare for the 2017 plan year forward, as well as a "bridge" for the 2016 plan year. (As reported in the Healthcare Reopener Update from May 6, 2015, the County notified Local 1 that it would take 3-4 months for new healthcare providers to develop price quotes for the upcoming year, effectively notifying Local 1 that the parties would not be able to overhaul the current system in time for the 2016 plan year.) Local 1 remains committed to fighting for affordable, quality and sustainable healthcare going forward, yet recognizes an immediate need for relief in the upcoming 2016 plan year. Local 1 sought the County's commitment to these goals, and its negotiators agreed.

Following the session on May 12, 2015, the County sent their proposed ground rules for these healthcare negotiations. Local 1 also followed up with a request for release time for Local 1 negotiators for internal caucuses and proposal drafting. The County granted Local 1's request, in part, and the Local 1 negotiating team held an all-day internal meeting and brainstorming session on May 27, 2015.

The next scheduled negotiation session is planned for June 2, 2015 at the Local 1 Headquarters, located at 420 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Cedric Porter
Lead Negotiator