



SEIU Nurse Alliance Legislative Conference Honors Nurse Week

California Public Nurses Advocate for Patients, Launch Staffing Study

On May 6 and 7, SEIU public nurses from around California gathered at the 2008 Nurse Alliance Legislative Conference in Sacramento to strategize how to put nurses at the center of the discussions around state health care reform. 80 nurses from six different SEIU public locals spent the first day in workshops, and the second day educating legislators about the risk to all Californians from the Governor's proposed budget cuts.



During workshops nurses spent time building awareness of state laws and regulations, **with the goal of using the knowledge to develop strategies for client advocacy to improve care and working conditions at the local level.** Nurses learned about the Nurse Practice Act and Title 22, and heard directly from Health Facility Evaluator Nurses on how to deal with individual situations where staffing levels are an issue.



At the legislative conference, you realize everyone has the same issues, and the decisions of policy makers will directly impact how we take care of our patients. It gives you the courage to fight your battles!

-Alfredo Morales, Staff Nurse
San Francisco General Hospital
SEIU Local 1021

ADVOCACY IN ACTION Legislative Conference 2008

In addition, nurses learned how to use and integrate into their practice the new staffing survey being launched by the SEIU Nurse Alliance. The survey moves beyond individual cases and will be the first ever nurse led study for nurse-patient ratios in California. The study will provide the evidence needed to push for better implementation of the safe staffing law SEIU helped pass that took effect in 2004.



Staffing is an issue, acuity must always be considered. We have to have better staffing ratios, or nurses will miss meals, and patients won't get the attention they deserve. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

-Julia Clare, RN
Tarzana Hospital
SEIU Local 121



The budget cuts the governor wants are unfair to the patients who fall into our hands. This meeting is a chance for me to learn what I can do, spread what I learn locally, and encourage others to be active.

-Martha Loiaza, Psychiatric Nurse
San Diego County
SEIU Local 221

After gaining an understanding of the current California budget proposals before the Assembly and Senate committees, nurses spent the second day meeting with legislators. **If Governor Schwarzenegger has his way, numerous programs will be cut this year, many of them severely impacting people who don't have a choice or an option for preventive health care services.** Nurses let legislators know that the governor's proposed cuts, which are particularly aggressive towards children, adolescents and women, are simply not acceptable.

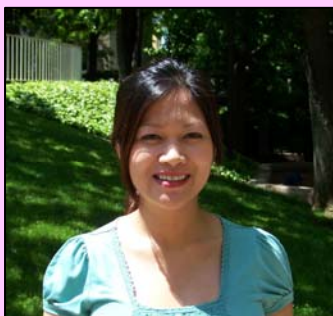
All in all, attendees felt the legislative conference was a great way to honor their work during Nurse Week. Attendees were provided a valuable opportunity to network and learn to work together to ensure a strong public health system and safety net for California.

SEIU Nurse Lobby Day Wednesday, June 11th

Come to Sacramento to continue the fight against the Governor's proposed healthcare budget cuts!

You can make a difference- sign up to advocate for safe, accessible quality health care for all.

For more information, including questions about location and transportation, contact your Local staff person.



Legislators need to know from our perspective how cuts will impact us and our patients. For example, the cuts proposed for Kern County will directly affect our ability to respond to the recent outbreak of meningitis.

*-Abigail Romo, PHN
Kern County Health Dept
SEIU Local 521*

First Name

Last Name

Employer and Facility

Address

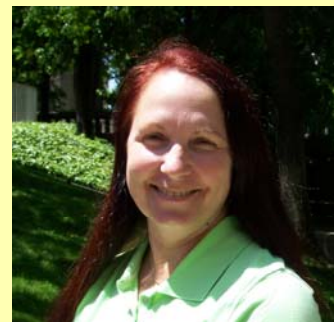
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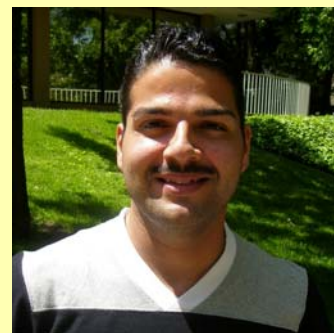
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Networking with other nurses is invaluable. Part of my work includes Kern County. I was able to meet a Kern County nurse, and we formed a task force to look at the cost to facilities and patients from the disease process of diabetes.

*-Kathleen Phillips
Medi-Cal Case Manager
SEIU Local 1000*



Lobbying is extremely important. We have to give a voice to those who can't stand up for themselves. If medical care isn't available to everyone then our legislators aren't doing their jobs.

*-Jose Garcia, ER Nurse
LAC-USC
SEIU Local 721*



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