

Update: Important Information about Today's MNA-University Negotiations May 20, 2013

Send on Behalf of Eric Dickson, MD, President and CEO, UMass Memorial Medical Center

We would like to update you on the negotiations with the MNA-University bargaining unit. On Friday, May 17, the Medical Center provided a proposal to the MNA-University bargaining unit reflecting the decreased economic package as a result of having to bring in replacement nurses for a minimum of five days. Today, May 20, the Medical Center met with the MNA-University bargaining unit. The MNA-University bargaining unit presented a proposal in response to our offer that moved in the opposite direction. The offer far exceeded the agreed-upon terms of the MNA-Memorial/Hahnemann settlement, and represented a significant step backward from what was agreed to on Friday, May 17 by the MNA-Memorial/Hahnemann nurses.

The Medical Center's proposal reflected a fair and competitive package in line with the shared sacrifices already agreed to by the five non-MNA bargaining units and our nonunion staff and managers, along with appropriately enhanced safe staffing that their own MNA-Memorial/Hahnemann bargaining unit agreed to. As the Medical Center has repeatedly informed the MNA, it has already incurred significant costs to prepare for the threatened strike. Nevertheless, the MNA's demands would force us to incur even greater costs to avert the ill-considered strike.

The MNA's demands today indicate that it would rather strike on Thursday, May 23 than reach a fair and competitive agreement.

It is very important for all staff to understand that the Medical Center will not reach an agreement with the MNA-University bargaining unit that is unfair or inequitable with the contract terms that nearly 1,000 of their colleagues of the MNA-Memorial/Hahnemann bargaining unit agreed to last week.

Let me assure you that we are well prepared to take safe care of all our patients at our University Campus. That is, and will remain, our number-one priority in the coming days.

Visit www.umassmemorialchange.org to review the offer proposed by the University Campus nurses.