

Community Health Care News

OPSEU Sector 17 — BPS

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Survey planned of CCACs

My name is Walter Rogers. I am a case manager with a Community Care Access Centre in Southwestern Ontario. My professional training is in Social Work. My career expands over a thirty-year period, primarily in mental health and health care. I encountered the first strike for the CCAC in August 1999. Shortly after the strike, Allied Health Care Professionals Association of Ontario (AAHP:O) merged with the Ontario Public Services Employees Union. Within a matter of months I was elected Head of Public Policy on the Executive Committee, of the Community Health Care Professionals Division, Sector 17 and elected as first President of OPSEU Local 158, following a merger with two other Locals of health care professionals, previously with AAHP:O.

As more therapists leave the CCAC's due to privatization, the relationship of case management on the multidisciplinary team will need further clarity. Case Managers are partners in the delivery of service to CCAC clients. They are not as some kind of "bureaucratic authority" hired to administer government policy. Clients and Service Providers cannot have blank cheques to provide services in the community. Accountability is a real



Design a logo for our sector and win a prize! Details in our next edition.

concept, but good service planning needs to balance the needs of clients and the resource available.

It is the goal of the Community Care Professionals Division of OPSEU to develop a survey for the local members in our Community Care Access Centres throughout Ontario to determine current issues related to caseloads and relationships with their service providers/clients.

A word from Barb McCoy, Chair of Job Security :

I would like to interview our brothers and sisters who work in Community Health, with regards to their changing roles. This is an area of great concern to me. Shifting responsibilities and classifications of duties must be approached cautiously, especially those who practice with a governing College. We will develop a questionnaire to address these issues and research what is being done in other agencies. I am hoping it will be of interest, to understand what may be working in some facilities and what may not be working, so our members may have a head start on "new" projects starting at their agency.

I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in this initiative, to invite them to participate in this project. The more people working on this, the more information we can gather and a better informed employee we will be!

Let's Talk

We need e-mail addresses for each local in our sector. It would be great to reach you quickly if we have news to impart.

Please send a contact's name and email to me, **Sue McSheffrey** at skmsh@renfrew.net

For your info., here are the other executive members e-mail addresses:

Marion Peck (Vice Chair)

Peckly@sympatico.ca

Mary Mallette (Secretary)

marymall@altavista.com

Dave Carmichael (Treasurer)

d.carmichael@sympatico.ca

Barb McCoy (Job Security)

hlazier1@home.com

Walter Rogers (Public Policy)

wrogers@execulink.com

Lori Bullock (Health and Safety)

lbullock@log.on.ca

Pat Riddle (Communications)

griddle@sympatico.ca

Arvind Agarwal (Alternate)

no e mail

Salary survey completed



PSEU staff member Gwen Jenkins has recently completed a survey of all salary scales in our sector. It is one of the first steps in building better collective agreements. All Staff Reps. bargaining in our sector have recieved a copy and it will be a useful tool for demand setting. What is surprising is the range of salaries for the same job classification. We are hoping to take a leadership role in setting

standards for salaries and helping the lower paid bargaining units climb the scale. As many of you will have read, the BPS established a network for better contracts at the BPS conference last fall. As a result of this, many of our energies as an executive have been focussed on this goal. Information is power and the better informed you are going into bargaining the better your chances at convincing the other side!

Strike report

Local 269

Local 269 Hamilton VON were forced into a strike on August 30th 2000. At issue were wages, job security and workload. They are very concerned at the compromises community nurses have had to make to become "competitive".

We are appealing to all the members in our division to support these 200 courageous workers in their struggle. Please forward donations to Lois Boggs, President, Local 269. 31 Empress Ave. Hamilton, L9A 1P1. This strike ended Oct. 3.

Local 274

The 220 workers in Local 274 Hamilton -Wentworth CCAC have just given their Bargaining Team a 91% mandate to strike. They are awaiting dates for conciliation but their CCAC is stalling. No Kidding! This employer is projecting an \$8 million deficit and expects the workers to swallow a 0% increase. For more info on where to send donations contact:

Pat Riddle at griddle@sympatico.ca

This strike began Oct. 10.

Day of Action— Oct. 28

The Ontario Health Coalition is organizing another day of action to draw attention to the underfunding in the Home Care sector.

Please mark October 28th on your calendars. Barb Linds will be contacting you nearer the time with the specifics of the planning. Last time this included an information picket during the lunch hour and media releases.

The CCAC strike in Hamilton (see right) is our fourth sector strike in a year. Given that we are a small sector; about 30 member locals, this is very alarming. If you think you are immune to the changes made by the Harris government, think again. **The next strike appeal could be yours.**

Dues Due!

We will soon be asking you to send in your Division Dues for 2000. The rate is \$2 per individual member per year. It should be an easy calculation, just multiply the number of members in your local or unit by two and send us that amount. For a mailing address email Dave Carmichael (see front page). This newsletter is one example of the type of project the funds will be used for.