

## SEIU-UHW EXECUTIVE BOARD JULY 30, 2020 MINUTES – ADOPTED DECEMBER 4, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

9:00 am General Session

**President Dave Regan** announced the sad news that we have now lost 10 union brothers and sisters to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic and asked for a moment of silence.

- **Dave** reviewed the agenda for the day then provided an overview of all of the challenges we face in the world right now and facing political leaders that aren't addressing it effectively; The Pandemic, economy, housing, racial justice and how can we, as a worker's organization, take greater leadership in addressing these challenges?
- We then reviewed a presentation on current statistics around COVID-19: expected deaths and infection rates by November 1, current #s in both CA and AZ, and the glaring racial disparities among deaths and infection rates.
- Presentation then transitioned to statistics on the economy; historical household wealth and the stunning gap between white households and African American/Latino households (\$147k to \$3500/6500), the current disparities in unemployment numbers, and the drastic increase in wealth among billionaires while the economy collapses, the difficulty in enacting police reform even in heavily democratic cities that have seen massive protests.
- What is UHW's plan to address the Pandemic, the Economy, and racial justice?
  - SB 275 "The Healthcare and Essential Workers Protection Act" that passed through first committee yesterday, in the CA legislature.
  - Expanding Medicaid/Medicare in red states like Oklahoma, Missouri, and more.
  - Fairness Project: Won 17 of 18 campaigns, mostly minimum wage affecting 16 million people.
  - Should the Fairness Project transition to police reform in 2021? 77% of the Board supports this.
  - Futuro Health and moving more people into well-paying jobs with great benefits.
  - Healthcare Rising Arizona ballot initiative: Mandatory infection reporting, permanent protection for pre-existing conditions, stop surprise billing, 5% annual increases for hospital workers for 4 years.

**Zelda Aaron** (*Community Hospital of San Bernardino*) and **Denise Ellis** (*Kaiser OC North*) provided an overview of UHW's Healthcare Worker Bill of Rights and the new incident reporting tracking as tools to hold our employers accountable.

11:50 am General Session - Financial Report

**Vice President Stan Lyles** presented the mid-year budget report with help of finance committee members. The Union continues to be in a strong financial position allowing us to fund critical fights including donations to BLM support organizations, passing SB 275, and Healthcare Rising AZ.

**President Dave Regan** presented the minutes of the May 14 Executive Board meeting for review and adoption. Motion moved by **Darell “DJ” Jerome** (*Kaiser OC North*) and seconded by **Melanie Magee** (*Kaiser Moreno Valley Medical Center*) and then the motion was approved by a majority of the board.

1:05pm General Session

PPE Legislation

**Suzanne Jimenez**, **Political Director** and Executive Committee member opened the discussion around SB 275 and introduced a video of our HCJ leaders discussing the need for proper PPE protections for healthcare workers from a patient’s perspective. **Gabe Montoya** (*Kaiser Downey*) gave an overview of what is covered by SB 275: 90-day stockpile of PPE with fines for being in violation, State of CA must also maintain 90 supply of PPE and 25% of it must be made in CA. He also announced that our legislation passed its first committee on 7/29/2020, the Assembly Labor Committee and received the endorsement of the CA Democratic party. He reviewed the timeline of next steps to full passage, summarized the Leaders to Lawmakers campaign to ensure our success, prepared the Board for the car caravan campaign to target specific legislators, ensuring we have leaders participating in the rapid response team to engage uncommitted legislators like Ash Karla, and shared some of the commercials we are running in support of SB 275.

Movement for Black Lives

**Vice President Stan Lyles** opened a conversation around the Movement for Black Lives with a video about a recent UHW protest against racist managers at Dignity Sacramento and his own early experiences with racism as a healthcare worker more than 40 years ago and a patient choosing to die instead of letting a black man treat her. **Georgette Bradford** (*Kaiser Sacramento*) then spoke as to why it’s important for SEIU UHW to take leadership on racial justice but also acknowledged that it is a difficult road and highlighted the 5 specific actions we’re taking as an organization:

- Tell our stories;
- Help resource the movement;
- Act as healthcare workers;
- Leverage our political power for justice;
- Facilitate and equip our leaders to have difficult conversations.

**Debru Carthan** (*Kaiser Modesto*) spoke about the specific legislation and 5 bills that we will be working to pass: AB 1472 Stone, AB 1506 McCarty, AB 2342 McCarty, AB 1022 Holden, and SB 731 Bradford.

3:50 General Session

**President Dave Regan** thanked everyone for their continued patience as we improve our use of Zoom and encouraged the POD Teams to continue to meet and organize. **Dave** gave a brief update on the August 8<sup>th</sup> virtual SEIU International Convention Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm