

Moving Forward

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled in our favor allowing us to move forward with an election. A list of eligible voters will be publicly posted before the vote.

Even though Legacy announced it will appeal the ruling, our election will take place as scheduled on Wednesday, **June 19**. You must vote in person.

Voting times are 6:00 to 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.



The NLRB Hearing,
Wednesday, May 21

Deborah Kafoury

Monday, June 17 • 1:15 – 2 p.m.

Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne

We'll meet in the lobby at 1:15 p.m. and walk up to Chair Kafoury's office together.

Please RSVP to Annabel by Saturday, June 15.

Text her at (503) 309-3359.



Multnomah County Chair
Deborah Kafoury

We're Making Strides & Building Power



(L to R) Kristen Sharp, Sarah Mittelman, Commissioner Sharon Meieran, MD, Amer Filipovic, Deborah Riddick, JD, RN

At this week's ONA meeting, we were joined by Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran and Deborah Riddick, ONA's Director of Government Relations. Commissioner Meieran makes policy that supports the county's vision for a healthy, safe and sustainable community. She listened to our experiences as mental health professionals and offered her support for our efforts to make Unity the best it can be for staff and our patients.

Deborah Riddick, who leads ONA's legislative and political program, has spent her career expanding patients' access to health care and bringing stakeholders together to raise communities' health standards. She's shaped public health policy as an analyst and director of health policy for state and local organizations, and has extensive experience practicing as a direct-care registered nurse and as a nurse educator.

Deborah spoke with us about ONA's work on the Oregon Healthcare Worker Protection Act, which passed the State House in a bipartisan vote this past week. [Senate Bill 823 \(SB 823\)](#) works to address violence that health care workers too often experience at work by increasing transparency, strengthening security and prevention plans, and protecting workers' right to report abuse without retaliation.

I'm Voting Yes!



Christine Allen and her daughter

You may recognize Christine Allen, a charge nurse on Unit 5.

She has worked at Unity since January 31, 2019—opening day. She can't forget the date because it's also her birthday.

Christine has been a nurse for 8 years.

Before Unity, she

worked at Kaiser-Brookside Center's mental health unit and at the Oregon State hospital (OSH). When she's not working, you can find Christine biking, gardening, walking her dogs, practicing yoga, or smashing the patriarchy.

What motivated you to become a nurse? What do you find most rewarding?

I was originally motivated by the thought of being a support person for someone on the worst day of their life. There is always some moment with a patient when I make a real connection with them, and I am able to help them through something really hard. Or I just sit with them in that really tough moment, and I am there for them. I feel rewarded to have patients come to me because they trust me to respect and care for them. To feel that connection with a patient, to have them say "I love all the nurses on unit 5," or "this is such a great place"—hearing those things is the best.

What are the most challenging aspects of your work?

The bureaucracy. There are a lot of road blocks to what we [nurses] all see as effective care. The mental health system is really broken. And it is not just at Unity; it's everywhere in the community in Portland. We see all these people with untreated mental illness and untreated addiction. It's a big systemic problem. The fact that these populations get low priority is frustrating.

When you worked at Kaiser, how did being a union member impact your work?

Kaiser had a different level of organization in that leadership worked with the union for a very long time. They've designed their whole structure on how they lead their organization by incorporating working with the union. At Kaiser, meetings are held unless everybody agrees to cancel, and there is an agenda to the meeting that goes out beforehand. So, we felt kind of like equals, on a level playing field. At Unity, our engagement in decision-making and how we execute our jobs is different. Management makes those decisions for us.

Why are you voting yes for ONA?

I'm voting yes because I want Unity management to hear and respect our voice. I don't want them to placate us with this idea that they're really incorporating our feedback into policies because that is not how Unity nurses feel. Also, I feel that politically in our country, we need more organized labor—and psych nurses need that voice. We are stigmatized just like our patients are. Voting yes for ONA would be a great move of solidarity and a great show of strength both for our nursing specialty and for our patients.

What advice would you give your nurse colleagues as we head towards our election? Joining ONA unites all of us as one voice, both in this frustration that we've all been having and also in a common goal. We all want Unity to be the best that it can be. ONA is not a third party. The union is us. We will elect our union representatives and go to them as our peers to voice our concerns. Together, we will move Unity in a direction that is nursing-driven.

Wear RED on Fridays



Display your solidarity by wearing **RED** every Friday.

Show your UNITY that we are **one voice** and that voice is voting **YES!**