



JNESO

DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO
the professional health care union

TEL: (732) 745-2776
FAX: (732) 828-6343
WEB: WWW.JNESO.ORG
MEMBERS: (800) 292-0542

1225 LIVINGSTON AVE., NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902

ELFRIEDA V. JOHNSON, RNC, PRESIDENT
DOUGLAS A. PLACA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stacey Ehling, 609-408-2461
stacey@princetonnc.com

VIRTUA ELIMINATES NURSING POSITIONS IN VOORHEES & MARLTON

North Brunswick, N.J. (June 24, 2019) – Registered Nurses, represented by JNESO the healthcare union, were told in a surprise announcement by Virtua Health System management that positions would be changed or eliminated in the Medical/Surgical Floors and Surgical Services Units at both the Voorhees and Marlton facilities as of August 1, 2019

“This announcement is a clear violation of the process regarding staffing changes that we negotiated under our current contract which went into effect in 2018. The nurses are stunned and extremely concerned about the possibility of losing their positions,” said Douglas Placa, Executive Director of JNESO, the union that serves and protects more than 1,600 nurses in the Virtua System.

Virtua claims the loss of these jobs are technically not “lay-offs” because they have jobs available, something JNESO emphatically denies is the whole truth. “Virtua is playing semantics in order to avoid abiding by contract provisions and seniority for lay-offs. Jobs are being reassigned regardless of the individual nurses’ experience, duties, and preferences,” stated Placa.

According to Placa, senior nurses, some with more than 20 years of service were told their new positions are being moved to another facility, some shifts are going from daytime to nights and hours are being altered. “In some cases, nurses may be forced to move from full-time to part-time or part-time to full-time, which may result in them having to leave their jobs,” he explained.

JNESO has filed several grievances this week over the process language and unfair Labor Practices over notification with the National Labor Relations Board.

According to Placa, JNESO has represented the nurses at Virtua since 2000 and notes that this isn’t the first time that management has tried to circumvent the Collective Bargaining Agreement. “The tremendous details of this surprise staffing plan make it clear that this has been in the works for a while, they didn’t come up with it overnight, it’s irresponsible at best, brazen at worst,” he added. “There was no regard for personal needs, childcare, or elder care negating the flexibility of the nursing profession.”

“They (Virtua) claim this staffing plan will improve patient care, however these changes will be extremely disruptive to our nurses’ lives and may cause some to leave after years of devoted service, and may ultimately impact the continuity of care for patients,” remarked Placa.

“We are not going to let this slide, too many lives are involved. JNESO will continue to fight for the rights of our nurses and their patients,” said Placa.

JNESO District Council 1 is a healthcare union representing more than 5,000 nurses and other healthcare workers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. For more information, visit <http://www.jneso.org/>

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