

Bargaining Update: Health & Safety

The health and safety of PECOSH/MNA members is a priority for your bargaining team as we negotiate our new contract this year. Many nurses and health care professionals have identified workplace issues that they would like to see addressed at the table, and our team is working diligently to address these concerns. Here is a summary of our latest proposals:

Issue	How We're Addressing it
<p>Inadequate equipment or missing supplies</p> <p>Over half of survey respondents reported that they “sometimes” or “rarely” have the adequate equipment and supplies necessary to perform their jobs and safely treat patients.</p>	<p>The PECOSH/MNA bargaining team has made a proposal that would require the hospital to provide all equipment necessary for the health and safety of employees and patients. Our members would have contract language to help guarantee adequate access to the tools we need to do our jobs.</p>
<p>Members being assaulted on the job</p> <p>Over a third of survey respondents reported having been assaulted while at work and/or receiving a threat of harm. The most commonly reported places for incidents were in work or patient care areas.</p>	<p>Your bargaining team made a proposal that would require security to respond to these incidents within a set and reasonable amount of time that will be reviewed annually. We have also proposed language that would require the hospital to secure all work and patient care areas by making sure that all visitors have a purpose for being on that floor. These proposed improvements will make our patients and our members safer.</p>
<p>Members uncomfortable reporting crime</p> <p>Of those who reported being a victim of violent or criminal activity, less than 10% felt comfortable enough to report it to the police.</p>	<p>We have the same right to report violent or criminal incidents as anyone. Therefore, we have proposed language that would require the hospital to encourage reporting and provide support when we've been the victim of a threat or assault. When members feel it is necessary to contact the police, it should be our decision. We should have the hospital's support to keep our workplace safe.</p>