NEXT STEPS
we need to win!

Over the next month our activists will be setting up meetings with local elected officials. We will urge them to support our goals for improving access and delivery of quality and safe patient care to the Harlem community, and providing the funding to make it happen. Please help us get this message across: Sign our petition!

"Teamwork begins with everyone. Let’s unite for the care of our beautiful patients!" - Edwin Pasco, Housekeeping Service Aide

what can you do?

- Help us petition our elected officials:
  Sign online: http://bit.do/HarlemHeatOnline
  Download a copy: http://bit.do/HarlemHeatDownload

- Help us educate our community:
  Have your faith or community group schedule a meeting with us
  Invite us to present on the our vision of better quality healthcare in Harlem

Visit online at http://bit.do/HarlemHeat
Call / text (929) 265-7551
Email HarlemHospitalHeat@Gmail.com

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The Harlem Hospital Health Care Education Activist Team (HEAT) is a coalition of members of the local unions that represent the dedicated workers at Harlem Hospital who provide quality care for all who walk through the doors of Harlem Hospital. The Harlem HEAT are committed to fighting for health care justice for the community, patients and dedicated workers who provide quality health care each and every day to all, regardless of ability to pay. Our members come from the ranks of DC 37; CWA, Local 1180; and the New York State Nurses Association; and the Doctors Council & CIR, SEIU; OSA and 1199SEIU, building trades and others.
OUR GOALS

Harlem Hospital provides amazing care every day to hundreds of patients who come through our doors, regardless of their ability to pay. Through our Internships and on-site Radiology and Pharmacy Schools we are also training a new generation of healthcare workers from our community.

While we have made great strides in improving the quality of care, inadequate resources continue to limit our progress. We can provide better and safer care, and as the front line workers providing that care, we know what needs to be done.

"Our first priority is patient safety, quality service and care" - Jerome Rhames, Patient Escort

For quality care

- Hire additional workers, especially nurses and doctors
  Commit to guidelines of Safe Staffing Bill
- Invest in OUR services: stop outsourcing
  Fund expansion of dialysis service into our new building and roll back other outsourcing contracts
- Bring back locally cooked, quality food:
  Because the outsourced "Cook-Chill" meals don't cut it
- Harlem deserves fair funding
  New York State disproportionately allocates money to private hospitals for uninsured patients, though Harlem and other HHC Hospitals provide most of this care

On May 20, 2015, Dr. Ramanathan Raju, MD, and President of HHC announced a plan to dramatically improve both HHC and healthcare in New York by 2020, including:

- Increase the number of patients that HHC’s serves annually to 2 million
- Expand the number of New Yorkers insured by MetroPlus, to 1 million with 80% of these patients connected to an HHC primary care doctor
- Improve inpatient satisfaction scores by 80% and outpatient satisfaction scores by 93%

We are inspired by this ambitious plan, but to accomplish it at Harlem Hospital we need more investment in our services and enough staff to provide the care. Nurses should be staffed at the standards set in the Safe Staffing Bill; more Doctors and other staff are needed to improve access to care. We applaud the hospital for choosing not to outsource Dialysis services, but it needs funding to meet our patients’ needs. The other outsourced services -- including Environmental Services, Facilities, Linen and especially Dietary -- continue to make our caring work harder. We know that INSOURCING and improving sometimes cost money; it is the cost of higher quality care. Elected officials must ensure fair allocation of New York State’s indigent care funds: Despite being the only Level 1 Trauma Facility in Harlem, we receive proportionately less of this money than private hospitals that care for wealthier and healthier patients. Finally, federal Disproportionate Share funding is scheduled to be reduced in 2018, and we need legislative action to stop this funding cut.

In June of this year the Harlem Hospital Health Care Education Activist Team held our first Community Town Hall Meeting attended by over 300 community advocates, elected officials and residents and workers to educate, engage, organize and mobilize the Harlem Community around the challenges we face at Harlem Hospital. We have and will continue to raise these issues in multiple forums, with all levels of Hospital management and with all stakeholders to address to ensure that the Harlem Hospital Community gets the support it needs to improve the care we provide. With your help, it can be done!