

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For Local 8 Members at YouthCare

April 20, 2021

Our Union is deeply disappointed in management's response to Super Familia's protest at the CASA program. Management and the Executive Board's response to this situation has highlighted not only our continued frustration with leadership, but also the lack of transparency at YouthCare that led us to unionize in the first place.

Our Union has been thoughtful and democratic in our response to not only the protests, but management's inadequate response. We surveyed members and held union caucuses to hear directly from CASA staff about how the program is run, what Super Familia's concerns about the program are, especially the collaboration with ICE, and what direction to take in advocating for change. It is our conviction that we can both hold space for Super Familia and support our co-workers at the CASA program.

Management's response to these protests demonstrates their inability to understand our priorities. Only days after the initial protest management outright rejected our contract proposal for a Race, Equity and Social Justice Committee and for stronger language in support of Youth Counselor involvement in committees. We hold firm that equitable access to YouthCare's committees is not at odds with the organization's obligation to care for young people or to pursue social justice, but it is necessary and vital to do our work.

Please join our Union Slack or attend a Union Caucus to make your voice heard and direct our response to future events. To join the Union Slack, email a Bargaining Team Member or Union Staff. We continue to push for ways our union contract can push YouthCare to be more transparent, equitable and innovative in pursuit of racial and social justice.

More Tentative Agreements

Break in Service – upon rehire after a break in service with the employer which does not exceed one year, an employee's seniority shall be recognized as the same as the time of their separation from employment.

Labor Management Committee – The Employer and Union Members will meet quarterly during the duration of this agreement to attempt to resolve problems that may arise related to the implementation of our CBA. Each party will have 6 representatives and participation on the committee will be considered time worked.

Bargaining Team Update

Our Union Bargaining Team continues to meet with management every other week for negotiations. We are working hard to move through our first contract and secure our union protections.

We'd like to welcome Eugene Copeland to our bargaining team! Eugene brings with him seven years of experience at YouthCare and will be representing Orion Center.

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Paris Chapman, who is moving onto a new role at the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence to continue our transformative community work. Thank you, Paris for your invaluable contribution to our work!

We still have openings on our Bargaining Team in the CASA program and UDYC. Please reach out to a Union Bargaining Team member or Union Rep Phoebe Feldsher or Union Organizer Corinne Cosentino if you are interested or if you think someone would be good for the position.

OPEIU Local 8 Shop Steward and Leadership Conference

Join us this Saturday for our Shop Steward and Leadership Conference!

We are holding two 1½ hour sessions. The first is from 9-10:30. We will practice how to find pertinent language in our Collective Bargaining Agreements and hear from experienced Shop Stewards.

The second session from 1-2:30 will cover the basics of a structured organizing conversation.

Join us for one, or both! Register by noon on Friday, April 23. Email Sally@opeiu8.org to register or click here: <https://forms.gle/9gTf7VmNzLnRpfic9>

Questions? Concerns? Reach out to a member of our Bargaining Team or Union Staff

Bargaining Team

Erin Halligan, Individual Giving Specialist, Development;
Jocelyn Jones, Case Manager, South Seattle Shelter;
Eugene Copeland, Case Manager, Orion;

Hunter (Leo) Galicia, Youth Counselor, Isis/Ravenna House;
Melissa Schade, Career Coordinator, Over 18 Housing;
Tremell Collins, On-Call Youth Counselor, Over 18 Housing;
Dani Schmitt, Career Coordinator, E&E;
Oscar Rosales Castaneda, Case Manager, Under 18 Housing;
Valeria Maganya, Case Manager, Under-18;
Tireion Turner, Case Manager – Student Resource Navigator, Prevention

Union Staff

Corinne Cosentino, OPEIU 8 Organizer at corinne@opeiu8.org,
Phoebe Feldsher OPEIU 8 Union Representative at phoebe@opeiu8.org
Diane Arnold OPEIU 8 Union Representative at diane-shelby@opeiu8.org.

