

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNMH Labor Coalition Disputes UNMH Chief Financial Claims
New Mexico's only Level 1 Trauma hospital losing experienced nurses and staff
because of UNMH policies**

Albuquerque, October 25, 2016 In response to the interview Tuesday, October 25, 2016 by Stephen McKernan, CEO of UNMH describing salary increases over the last 13 years; We, the UNMH Labor Coalition (District1199NM, CIR/SEIU, and CWA Local 7076) would like to say, on behalf of the employees of UNMH, that salary increases for the “rank and file” staff have not increased at a rate of 234%, or 98%, or 47% but have remained relatively stagnant. One of the largest increases staff have seen occurred last year when staff received a 2% overall increase and an additional 2.7% upon receiving a satisfactory evaluation. At the same time, the Hospital has increased the out of pocket costs to their frontline staff through, increased deductibles, co-pays and other insurance costs. In effect, salaries for the frontline, caregiving staff have gone backwards.....unlike Mr. McKernan who is paid almost a million dollars a year. Mr. McKernan and his management team have in fact created what could be likened to an “indentured servant” model at UNMH in 2016 America. Staff work to get health insurance for their families! Healthcare workers in a healthcare facility are hard pressed to afford their own healthcare insurance at a hospital with a self-funded plan. These draconian policies are the leading cause of staff leaving UNMH.

While the UNMH Labor Coalition supports the passage of the Mill Levy because as the frontline nurses, residents and staff we understand the importance to the programs at UNMH and

see how much that money does in terms of care for our citizens'. We firmly believe in and have been to the County Commissioners regarding public accountability for public money! As the only Level 1 trauma hospital in the state of New Mexico, there remains a tremendous need for care to the indigent and for highly specialized services for all citizens of the state. Mr. McKernan for too long has been able to do as he pleases with the money given to him by taxpayers and we believe that time needs to come to a close.

We call on Tim Keller, State Auditor to conduct an audit of UNMH and that all financial matters should be made available to the public. As representatives for the staff, we have in the past asked for information on salaries and bonuses, only to be told that it was not a requirement of management to give it to us. Well, we believe the public does have a right to that information and any other financial information as they, the Public, are the ones paying the bills.

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If you would like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview please call:

- Lorie MacIver, President, District 1199NM, Phone: 505-690-6932, representing UNMH L&T, SS
- Sylvia Grass, Organizer, CIR/SEIU, Phone: 816-332-8000, representing UNMH interns & residents
- Donald Aire, President, CWA Local 7076, Phone: 505-955-8534, representing ancillary UNMH staff