

Parkview Nurses Timeline

July 2007: Nurses at Parkview Community Hospital begin discussing forming a union so they can have a voice at work to be more effective nurse and patient advocates.

November 2007: Nurses, including seven-year NICU nurse Deirdre Kirkwood, attend the first organizing committee meeting.

Friday, January 4, 2008: With no warning, a human resources manager at Parkview calls Deirdre into a meeting and fires her because of “poor morale” at the hospital. A security guard brings Deirdre her purse, she is given her final paycheck, and told to leave without being allowed to go back to her floor and say goodbye to her co-workers.

Monday, January 7, 2008: Deirdre and 12 family members and friends go to Parkview to hand fliers out to employees explaining her unfair firing. Parkview administration calls the police, who relocate Deirdre’s family and friends to the sidewalk.

Tuesday, January 8, 2008, daytime: After months of not listening to the nurses, Parkview administrators hold “open forums,” where nurses call on the administration to explain Deirdre’s unfair firing.

Tuesday, January 8, 2008, evening: The nurses hold an organizing meeting at Deirdre’s church. In an effort to intimidate the nurses, Parkview’s chief financial officer and two other administrators, along with a security guard, try to muscle their way into the meeting. After some tense discussion, they are finally convinced to leave. In the meantime, they surveilled the group to see which nurses were there.

Wednesday, January 9, 2008: Parkview security guards photograph and videotape nurses talking to union organizers outside the hospital and on the sidewalks.

Thursday, January 10, 2008: Parkview administrators turn on sprinklers full blast when activists try to hand out leaflets at the hospital. Administrators also block a side employee entrance.

Saturday and Sunday, January 12 and 13, 2008: Parkview administrators call the police again. The police allow leafletters to stay at the hospital’s front entrance.

January 14, 2008: Nurses file for a union election at Parkview, setting in motion a process by which nurses get to choose whether to have a voice on the job.

January 18, 2008: Elected officials and community supporters call on Parkview to give Deirdre her job back, and UNAC/UHCP files charges against the hospital with the National Labor Relations Board for attempting to intimidate and harass the nurses.