



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA
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Mendocino County and SEIU announce formation of Labor Management Committee

Mendocino County and SEIU Local 1021, representing the County's largest bargaining unit, engaged in a two day training session last week to begin the Labor Management Committee process called for in the recently negotiated labor agreement.

Participants included Board of Supervisors Chair John McCowen, CEO Carmel Angelo, SEIU Local 1021 President Louise "Weezer" Gonyo, SEIU Local 1021 Field Representative Carl Carr, and other County staffers and SEIU representatives.

The training, facilitated by the State Mediation Service, was paid for by SEIU and covered such topics as the philosophy and purpose of Labor Management Committees, components of issue resolution, and the principles of effective labor management relationships.

"After 18 months of difficult negotiations, the Labor Management Committee is an opportunity to improve morale and build a positive working relationship with our largest employee bargaining group," stated Supervisor McCowen. "I applaud SEIU for bringing the idea forward," added McCowen.


"SEIU welcomes the opportunity to build a more collaborative relationship with the County," stated SEIU President Louise "Weezer" Gonyo. "The Labor Management Committee is an opportunity for a new beginning where we can focus on working together to create 'win-win' outcomes," said Gonyo.

The County previously had a Labor Management Committee, but it had not met for several years prior to last weeks meeting.

"The County still faces serious economic challenges, but this process will improve communication and rebuild trust with our employees," said McCowen. "Working together we can better meet the needs of our employees and the public who rely on them for service," stated McCowen.

"Our employees are committed to doing the best job they can for the County and the public," said Gonyo. "We need to share ideas on how to improve morale, working conditions, efficiency and revenue, and the Labor Management Committee gives us a chance to do that," concluded Gonyo.

Following the two day training, during which the participants agreed on membership, objectives and ground rules, the Labor Management Committee is expected to meet monthly.

Released by: 
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