

UC Patient Care WATCH

February 2008 - Alert #3
www.UCPatientCareWatch.org

How could UCSD's misplaced priorities affect your medical care?

Last year, UCSD announced a plan to reduce the number of inpatient beds at its Hillcrest hospital and to move forward with a \$350 - \$450 million addition to its hospital in La Jolla. UCSD's proposed transfer of beds from Hillcrest to La Jolla would **reduce the number of beds at Hillcrest — the County's low-income safety-net hospital — by up to 39%.**

The \$350 - \$450 million addition to the hospital



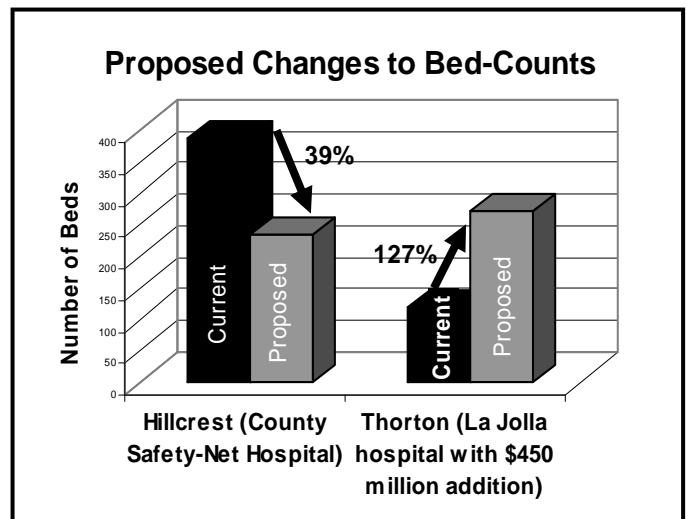
The lobby at UCSD's La Jolla hospital

in La Jolla will expand an already luxurious campus where a

baby grand piano plays in the hospital lobby, valets park patients' and visitors' cars and meals are ordered from room-service.

In the meantime, as earlier UC Patient Care Watch Alerts stated, wages for essential healthcare workers at both of UCSD's hospitals are so far behind what other area hospitals pay, that recruitment, retention and staffing of these critical workers has become a challenge.²

It is time for UCSD to prioritize its patients and its employees by keeping experienced full-time caregivers, as much as it prioritizes its ritzy La Jolla facilities.



NEXT WEEK: ...How UC performs compared to other hospitals on several internet report cards...

**Brought to you by the 11,000 UC Patient Care Technical Employees at UC's Medical Centers represented by AFSCME Local 3299. AFSCME is currently in contract negotiations with UC. We are fighting for wages, benefits and working conditions which would close the gap with other medical centers. Please support us!*

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No request to cease services or stop deliveries.

Footnotes: 1 - 5/15/07, UC Regents Committee on Ground and Buildings, Executive Summary for Agenda Item # GB5. Decrease of Hillcrest beds is 33% to 39%. 2 - www.ucpatientcarewatch.org—See Alerts #1 and #2.

