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The Department of Public Health to Assist Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center

“Please continue the collaborative work between our public health and our hospital to not only ensure the continuity of operations, but most importantly the well-being of both patients and nurses.”

On Wednesday, January 4, 2023, Lieutenant Governor Talauega E.V. Ale held a follow up meeting with the leaders of both the Department of Public Health (DOH) and Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center (LBJ), to discuss proposed solutions to address issues as mentioned in a prior meeting held in December 2022 (Meeting details can be found in PR004-12272022 at <https://www.americansamoa.gov/press-media>).

CEO Moefaauo confirmed that LBJ nurses have received their pay raises and the raise in salaries will assist in their retention efforts. CEO Moefaauo stated that in their efforts to recruit nurses, plans of advertising locally and abroad through media blitz are in the pipeline.

With the need for 67 nurses, Director Motusa confirmed that Public Health will provide 36 nurses (10 RN and 26 LPN) to assist LBJ. DOH Nursing Chief Margaret Sesepasara also confirmed that ASCC will provide 4 RNs, 2 RNs will come out of retirement, and 2 RNs from DOH special programs will all be assisting LBJ. Public Health will seek assistance from other clinics such as the Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

CEO Moefaauo requested to allow 30 days to implement and monitor the proposed plan as a result of the collaborative effort of both Public Health and LBJ, and will provide a status report after the requested time frame.

“I commend DOH Director Motusa, LBJ CEO Moefaauo, and members of the board, for coming to a collective decision and proposing these solutions,” stated Honorable Talauega. “There are two issues that we currently face, 1) retention and 2) recruitment. Please continue the collaborative work between our public health and our hospital to not only ensure the continuity of operations, but most importantly the well-being of both patients and nurses.”

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