

Whatever Happened to Medicare for All?

<https://chat.workingclassunity.com/t/medicare-for-all-esque-town-hall-side-quest/319/5?u=chima>

^ that's the outline I shared at the meeting

Why did we want it in the first place

What happened

How did we end up with this patchwork of nonsense

Flyer Design

Let's figure out the words we want on it. Group design prob not the best idea.

That too.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- date
- time
- location
- "Is M4A Even a Good Idea???"
 - healthcare workers
 - union
 - mom
 - 30 - 60
 - No nonsense (ain't got no time)
Aka know how to run an event

ADDRESSES FOR FLYERS

- Delta ?? (4662 Precissi Ln Ste 200, Stockton, CA 95207)
- Kaiser ??? (7373 West Lane, 1st Floor, Stockton, CA 95210)
- Stockton Urgent Care ??? (1148 W Hammer Ln, Stockton, CA 95209)
- Pacific Urgent Care ??? (1782 W Hammer Ln, Stockton, CA 95209)
- Total Renal Care (Dialysis) ??? (555 W Benjamin Holt Dr, Stockton, Ca 95207)
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PRESENTATION SLIDES:

Slide 01: Title and Introduction

Introduce WCU

Outline of the presentation

Introduce the question: Whatever happened to Medicare for All?

Slide: The Two-Tier System: Costs Up, Access Down

- Millions of people are uninsured or underinsured
- Even 'good' insurance faces higher premiums, narrower networks
- Rising costs and billing complications affect everyone

Slide: Real-Life Consequences

- Stories of denied coverage, surprise surprise bills, network limitations
- Emotional toll on families

Act 2

Medicare for All's appeal is obvious: why do you think it was popular?

Slide: Popular Demand, Political Deadlock

- Many "progressive" politicians endorsed it, then retreated
- Lobbying from healthcare giants

Slide: Monopoly Power

- From insurance companies to hospitals, pharmacy benefit managers
- Vicious cycle of power
- Closing of smaller pharmacies and rural hospitals

Slide: How Romney Won

- Fake public options
 - Obama invited healthcare insurance companies to draft it
 - Romney Won Anyway
- Vertical integration (capital gunna capital)
- Dialysis Medicare coverage here

Slide: How Elite Hold Us Back?

- Both parties rely on big donors and major healthcare companies
- Policy agendas and think tanks shape policy so they always preserve profit driven structures
- Popular reforms if effective would face intense lobbying from people

Slide: How Consolidation and Monetary Influence Shape Our Healthcare

- Hospitals, insurers, and pharma merging
- Narrowed networks, rising costs, out of reach care

Act 3

Slide: Why Does Medicare for All Resonate?

- M4A proposes universal coverage and cost controls
- Public support once reached (some high)%
- Seems like an "easy" and direct fix for many crises we have talked about

Slide: Turning Anger into organized power

- Failed reforms reveal deeper systemic barriers
- Real change requires building a base of organized workers and communities

Slide: Why Understanding our collective interests matters

- We need to see ourselves not just as individuals but as a part of the broader working class whose needs are sidelined. We should recognize that our issues like low wages, housing, and healthcare all arise from the same root causes (you being a worker bitch and being dominated). Alienation from choice Once we see that, we can act in solidarity across lines of race gender occupation geography to push back against those who prioritize profits over our lives

Slide: Tactics for Real Change on the Ground

- Supporting each other's workplace struggles and union drives
- Building alliances between workers and patients to address quality of care in our labor demands

Slide: M4A as a step towards broader... progress?

- M4A addresses a major need, but it does not end corporate dominance
- But it frees a major burden, allows us to then fight for housing, education,
- Breaks reliance on employers

Slide: Conclusion....

Poster Bullets

- **Healthcare Crisis:** Families pay more but get less coverage, while insurers and hospital corporations profit. (*Families pay more for less while insurance and healthcare giants profit*)
- **Working Class Not in Control:** Medicare for All is popular, corporate funders wield control over both parties, sidelining working people's interests in favor of profit. (*Big donors pull the strings, sidelining working people's interests*).
- **Organized Worker Power:** By uniting across workplaces and communities, we can challenge profit-driven priorities and secure healthcare as a universal right. (*Only united worker power can secure universal healthcare for all*).

ACTS

Intro: We are WCU: scary Socialists

You know what M4A is / Icebreaker??? / Do you know what M4A is?

Act 1: What are the issues

Health care is too expensive, unless you're rich

Act 2: How we got here

Capitalis- erm I mean Rich people are greedy

The State failed us

-People will pay any amount of money necessary to survive; this is unlike other commodities, where people will only pay up until a certain amount

Act 3: Our solution to those issues

What do we do?

Outro: Do something about it; punk

Join WCU or something like WCU

The Healthcare Crisis

- Two-tier healthcare system where half the population has inadequate or no healthcare access
- The half with “good” insurance still deals with rising healthcare costs, it cutting into their paychecks for less coverage
- We still have millions of Americans with no health insurance; millions more underinsured

The Capitalism Crisis

- Profit-driven
- Market Failure: Healthcare does not even operate as a normal market.
- Profit over people.

Personal Healthcare Stories

Why M4A Matter and Why It Stalled

The Promise of Medicare for All

- Universal coverage
- Cost control
- Freedom from employers

- Free up time/money/ties to employment that would make it easier for socialists to organize

The Political Moment (2016-2020)

- Bernie Sanders made it central to his presidential campaigns
- 70% of Americans supported the policy
- Primary way 'progressives' differentiated themselves from centrist Democrats during primaries (this was actually an issue...)

Why It Stalled (Sheepdogging and Co-optation)

- Despite momentum, it has been abandoned:
 - Kamala Harris endorsed and then backed firmly away from it
 - Even AOC suggested M4A might just be a negotiating tactics for a public option
- Democratic Party never on board (why)
- Corporate Influence (never fully unleashed)
- Sheepdogging (California Democrats)
- Policy Dilution (top-down demand/slogan easy to twist)

The Failure of Conventional Politics

- Healthcare costs are not higher than before Obamacare
- Networks have narrowed, limiting access
- The ACA preserved and entrenched industry profit extraction
- Continued consolidation of the entire industry
- But we need to move beyond trust-busting

Faith in the Valley TU Example

- Movements that on their face challenge capitalism directly are often redirected into channels that do not fundamentally threaten the system

CALL Stockton Example

Not Just About Policy - It Is About Building Class Consciousness

Beyond Single-Issue Reform

- Build Class Consciousness: Develop shared understanding that workers' interests fundamentally differ from those of the capitalist class
- Create Independent Organizations: Working-class institutions independent from Democratic Party and Donor control
- Develop Political Education: Helping people understand how capitalism works and how it perpetuates crisis

Why is building class consciousness important

- Breaks political dependency: Helps workers see beyond the Democratic/Republican false choice
- Creates solidarity: United people across differences around shared economic interests
- Enables strategic action: Allows for an analysis of and coordinated pressure at key points in the system vs only relying on lobbying and electoralism
- Provides an alternative vision: shows that another society is possible centered around different interests, not just profit and capital
- Builds lasting power: Well-educated and experienced workers become lifelong organizers who can recruit and develop others

From Frustration to Organized Power

- The Medicare for All campaign's failure reveals a critical lesson: popular policy campaigns cannot succeed without organized working-class power. Our strategy must build independent power beyond lobbying politicians.
- Strategic Local Organizing
 - Healthcare Worker Network Development
 - Map San Joaquin County's healthcare sector: hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, facilities
 - Research ownership structures (corporate chains, private equity, non-profits)
 - Identify union status and contract expiration dates for strategic intervention
 - Build cross-facility healthcare worker networks to share information and coordinate actions
 - Support healthcare unionization drives with organizing trainings and resources
 - Link workplace struggles directly to the broader M4A fight
 - Patient-Worker Solidarity Campaigns
 - Organize union workers to include patient demands in contract negotiations
 - Public Ownership Options

- Research public healthcare models like NYC Health + Hospitals, serving 1 million people with 1.5% of NYC's budget plus federal funding
- Building Strategic Alliances
 - Cross-Sector Solidarity
 - Connect with unions representing workers in logistics, pharmaceuticals, and other strategic sectors
 - Coordinate political education across different sectors to build class consciousness
 - Collaboration
 - Build relationships with grassroots healthcare advocacy groups
 - Support tenant organizations fighting for healthy housing conditions
- Political Education as Organizing Tool
 - Historical Context and Analysis
 - Study past healthcare victories like Britain's NHS creation
 - Analyze ACA structural failures and limits of incremental reforms
 - Examine successful union-based healthcare campaigns
 - Learn from movement setbacks and co-optation
 - Connecting Local to Systemic
 - Develop materials showing links between local healthcare problems and capitalism
 - Host regular study groups on healthcare political economy
 - Train members to articulate connections between healthcare issues and systemic problems
- Maintaining Revolutionary Politics
 - Long-Term Vision
 - Frame Medicare for All as removing a burden that facilitates future organizing
 - Focus on building working-class power beyond policy asks
 - Maintain independence from Democratic Party
 - Politics
 - Assess relationships between reform campaigns and revolutionary goals
 - Prevent politicians from co-opting the movement
 - Connecting to Broader Movements
 - Link local organizing to statewide and national Medicare for All campaigns
 - Share organizing models and lessons with other groups

Winning single-payer in the U.S. will require working people organizing across many sectors. By building independent working-class power through local organizing and start and coordinating more broadly from there, we can create the conditions where Medicare for All becomes not just popular polling-wise, but an active campaign where people see it as a stepping stone to overcoming capitalism.