



**Maryland Classified Employees Association, inc.**

## **MCEA News Release**

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# **MCEA Reaches Out to the State of Maryland to Rescue Rosewood Employees**

MCEA (the oldest and largest independent labor organization serving Maryland public employees) is requesting assistance from Governor Martin O'Malley and the Secretary of Health & Mental Hygiene, John Colmers, to intervene on behalf of a group of MCEA members who are currently employees at the Rosewood Center. Three hundred Rosewood employees have been given formal notice that they are to be laid off from their positions, which are positions that many of these men and women have held for their entire adult lives.

The employees were advised that they would be given assistance in seeking another position with the State. They were also informed that freeze exemptions have been granted to State agencies hiring Rosewood employees, making it easier for other agencies to hire and recruit employees of Rosewood.

However, our members have advised MCEA that rather than receive any meaningful assistance in actually finding other employment, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Human Resources has primarily been only assisting employees with the preparation of resumes, and not in actually placing them in other State positions.

MCEA is dedicated to serving its members and in making sure they are treated equally and fairly. These employees are facing imminent unemployment in the most difficult economic times. They have dedicated their lives to helping the residents of Rosewood, among the most vulnerable citizens of our State. Through no fault of their own they are losing their jobs, and they deserve better. MCEA wants to ensure that proper aid and support are given to them.

As a result, MCEA is calling upon the State of Maryland to commit its resources to ensure that these dedicated employees are not left out in the cold. They need more than placement "assistance." They need jobs! Jobs which should be virtually guaranteed by DHMH and the State. MCEA President Marilyn Miller remarks, "I am distressed about this situation and what our members of our state are going through right now. Concrete advice and assistance to them should take place as soon as possible."

More information about MCEA is available at [www.mcea.org](http://www.mcea.org). For additional information, please call Vanessa DiDomenico (MCEA Communications Director) at 1-888-611-MCEA, ext. 211.

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