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## **CEO Report Notes from August 25, 2021 Board Meeting**

### ***Ara Chakrabarti, CEO***

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The following is an outline of comments from the CEO at the recent Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS) Board Meeting. A complete recording of the board meeting is available at: <https://www.rcms-healthcare.org/board-of-directors.html> (scroll down on the web page to Meetings – Recording and Documents)

### **Community Communication**

- We published through social media and other communication media our current guidelines regarding third dose and booster doses relating to COVID vaccines. The announcement is available on the RCMS webpage: <https://www.rcms-healthcare.org/news/covid-19-third-doses-and-booster-doses>

### **Organizational/Operational update**

- Our new Primary Care provider, Erica Brown, started last week. She is coming up to speed in our internal processes and her schedule is now open for patient visits. She will help us on get relief in the primary care patient appointment back log we face as well as taking over patients when other providers out for various reasons.
- We are in the process of negotiations with new providers for our Urgent Care as Barb Brittell is ending her employment with us in early October. This is an opportunity to reengineer out Urgent Care provider coverage and schedule as we continue to evolve, particularly what we are experiencing with COVID.

### **COVID-19 and Vaccine**

- As part of the new guidelines from State of California, all employers are to test their employees who are not vaccinated. There are specific processes and procedures county public health departments are requiring of the employers. We have shared those guidelines to the local employers and will be providing guidance and/or help as needed. But it is the responsibility of the employer to test employees who are not vaccinated and does not have any symptoms. Symptomatic patients should be referred to RCMS or other medical facilities for appropriate treatment.

- We have started giving the third dose of COVID vaccines to patients who qualify under the immune compromised patient guidelines of the California Department of Public Health.
- Additionally, with the anticipation of potential booster doses for all vaccinated people, we are reengineering our vaccine delivery processes so that we are prepared if and when we are given the green light to start doing booster shots. So far, we have administered about 7,500 doses with close to 3,700 people fully vaccinated.
- Both Sonoma and Mendocino County continues to see rise in COVID positive cases. All clinics and hospitals in our proximity are struggling with rise in number of cases. Almost all of the severe cases requiring hospitalization are unvaccinated people. Vaccination is still the best preventive measure – while we should continue to follow other public health guidelines.
- As of now, as required by State of California, all RCMS employees are required to be fully vaccinated by end of September unless they have appropriate medical or religious exemptions. We will follow these guidelines.

## **Facilities**

- We continue to work with various contractors to finalize remodeling work for Gualala main clinic 1<sup>st</sup> floor to optimize space use there.