



CEO Report Notes from July 29, 2020 Board Meeting
Ara Chakrabarti, CEO

Organizational and Operational Changes

- Dr. Afsoon Foorohar is taking personal leave of absence starting the beginning of August.
- Dr. Mark Kal is back on part time basis while Dr. Afsoon is on leave of absence.
- Dr. Clem Binnings will be leaving us in August. He is moving out of this area.
- We have added another behavioral/mental health provider, Mark Minder, LCSW. Starting in August, Mark will be spending one day a week in our Point Arena clinic so that patients from that area will not have to travel to Gualala.
- We have also hired three new medical assistants while we have lost a nurse and a medical assistant.
- We are going through some changes in our Hospice care. We are in the process of setting up an afterhours Hospice triage calling systems with an agency that will have RN on call.

COVID-19

- RCMS continues to work with Mendocino County Public Health on surveillance screening tests for asymptomatic population. We have done over 700 tests so far. Planning to do another 400 in August. While there is some confusion about the getting the results, anyone tested positive is informed by Public Health within 3 to 4 days and if you do not hear from public health within 7 days, you are presumed negative. These screening tests remain to be one of the very important factors for Public Health to make decisions that impact our community.
- Symptomatic patient test that we do at the clinic are sent to a private lab (who is taking at times up to 2 weeks to get the results). But these results come to us and we inform the patient and public health as appropriate.
- We are offering our frontline staff members testing every two weeks.
- For the benefit of the community, we are using our website and social media outlets to publish, as quickly as we can, important information as we receive them from Public Health
- Both Sonoma and Mendocino counties currently are on the State's Watch List – indicating surge in positive cases.
- Triage tent outside -- looking at possibilities of getting more permanent triage facility – particularly in preparation for the winter weather.
- Unfortunately, 2 additional tents that are erected outside in preparation of treating larger volume of sick patients will be taken back by the County in the next week or so.
- Continuing coordinating with CLSD and the fire departments for planning purpose.

- While we continue order and replenish personal protective equipment (PPE) stock, we have access to the Federal disaster trailers for PPE and other supplies

Primary Care Impact

- We continue to see a drop in primary care visits as compared to pre COVID -19. We are at about 70 - 80% of pre COVID days
- We do not want people to get sick and stay home. Primary care is open, safe, and ready – and we are making a strong effort via ad in ICO, communication through social media and local radio to inform the community.
- As needed, telehealth is continuing as well.

Dental Clinic

- We have opened the dental clinic on a reduced capacity. We are now open M – TH, 8 AM to 5 PM with one dentist at a time. We are doing all regular, preventive, and urgent dental care including cleaning etc., while ensuring we follow all recommended and appropriate COVID-19 guidelines for dental clinics.

Gualala Pharmacy

- Due to COVID-19 and associated impacts of getting regulatory approvals, Mendocino Village Pharmacy has had to delay the opening of the Gualala pharmacy. Currently hoping for opening during Aug 17 week – but could be early September.

Improving Communication to the Community

- We have started an electronic newsletter called “The Pulse”. First publication was July 16 and had about 1000 recipients. We intend to publish it couple of time every month. Please sign up at <https://www.rcms-healthcare.org/news>
- Regularly scheduled Town Hall meeting – with the new fiscal year we intend to have a quarterly town hall meeting to report back to the community on RCMS and related topics. We are planning to have the first one, via Zoom, during the month of August. More information will be provided.
- Continue to publish pertinent information and news through redesigned website as well as and social media outlets.

Closing Remarks

It is a stressful time for us, our family, and our friends. Most of us have never experienced anything like this. Our team, although stressed, is doing an outstanding job. They are taking the risk to keep rest of us, the community, healthy – they are the front line.