



CEO Report Notes from April 28, 2021 Board Meeting
Ara Chakrabarti, CEO

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

- Ara will be on KGUA (Peggy’s Place) on Tuesday, May 4 at 9 AM to discuss COVID-19, vaccines, and other RCMS related topics.
- Ara will have another quarterly townhall meeting around mid-May. Specific date to be determined.
- On April 10, on our invitation, Dr. Andy Coren, Mendocino County Public Health Officer along with Bekkie Emery, Director of Mendocino County Social Services visited us. This is the first time they came to RCMS. We had a vaccine clinic that day, so they got to see how we are doing our clinics. They also toured our main Gualala clinic. They were very impressed with our vaccine clinic as well as overall RCMS’ services and capabilities
- We have decided to put out an annual report similar to an organization/institution annual report. First issue will come out around July of this year covering FY 20-21.

Organizational/Operational Update

- Led by Dr. Afsoon, we have started a Children’s Book Program. Every child will now receive a book as a part of their Annual Wellness visit.
- We are starting a Medication-Assisted Treatment program at RCMS for individuals experiencing addiction to or dependency on opioids. Details are getting announced through various communication medium and information is available on our webpage at: <https://www.rcms-healthcare.org/addiction-treatment.html>

- We have hired another Medical Assistant and an additional front desk support person. We also added another hospice/palliative care support person to evolve and move that initiative forward.
- As these last number of months have been rather stressful for our team members, and now the weather started warming up a bit – we took advantage of that and held a staff appreciation BBQ last week, which was well attended. Several Board members helped as well – so thank you.
- In an effort to see how we can develop closer relationship with higher level care facilities, vis-à-vis hospitals – we are exploring possibilities of medical specialists from Adventist Hospitals possibly providing services here at RCMS. A team of clinical specialists will visit us on May 6 to discuss this further. This will be 2nd visit from Adventist in the last couple of months. This is still in exploratory state.

COVID-19 and Vaccine

- By end of this week, we will have about 6,500 doses of vaccine administered by RCMS -- about 3,000 people fully vaccinated and few hundreds with first dose. As the vaccine supply has picked up – we are seeing somewhat less demand for vaccinations. We are looking at putting together a campaign to encourage people who are not vaccinated yet to get vaccinated. Hopefully you will start something to that effect in the next week or so.
- On April 6th, we teamed up with MHA and CLSD along with our volunteers to vaccinate unhoused members of our community, and other individuals who are unable to come to our vaccine clinics with the J&J single dose COVID-19 vaccine. A number of vaccines were given at a known homeless encampment at Gualala River and as well as at the Point Arena City Parking. According to Maryann Watts, our vaccine coordinator, this was a very heartfelt experience for all involved.
- And finally, we could not have done what we have been able to achieve in our vaccination effort without our volunteers. As a small token of our appreciation, we were able to set up couple of lunches for the volunteers at the completion of the vaccination clinics -- these were appreciated by all involved.

Facilities

- Facilities committee continues to look at current and future facilities related needs. The group is meeting on a regular basis – but nothing concrete yet to report to the Board.