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## CEO Report Notes from February 23, 2022 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**

- COVID case positivity is in decline in our area over the last few weeks. This is a great news – maybe we are seeing the beginning of the end of this pandemic. California has relaxed some of the COVID-related restrictions such as masking requirements. We, at RCMS, are still following the guidelines that public health has imposed on healthcare providing facilities – which for the purpose of masking and vaccination have not changed.
- Our annual report is getting printed and should start shipping in the next week or two. This effort is led by Hall Kelly and other community volunteers with support from our staff.

### **Organizational/Operational Update**

- Dr. Afsoon Foorohar has accepted the position of our Medical Director effective immediately. I want to thank her and congratulate her for taking on this responsibility. She is already making changes and plans for a more effective and efficient patient care and clinical side of our operation. I look forward to work with her closely.
- I also want to report that we have two new providers here now – Caithleen Zikorus has joined as a full-time employee few weeks back but had some issues with getting her California licenses in a timely fashion – those issues have been resolved and she is seeing patients now. Also, we have Michelle Knepper joined as an Urgent Care provider – she is a locum and currently coming up to speed in our Urgent Care department.
- We have just engaged an outside recruitment agency to complement our internal HR staff. Two of our providers plan to retire this calendar year and we are working hard to backfill them.
- As I informed the board last month, HRSA is planning to do their 3 yearly on-site visit this year. It is scheduled for July 6-8. Significant prep work has to be done prior to the visit. In general, the audit will cover Clinical, Financial, and Administrative/Governance areas.
- One other item I want to mention – a RCMS Strategic Planning meeting involving all board members and operation leadership is also being discussed with board leadership. This is

also an item that HRSA auditors will be looking for – particularly any specific learnings from the COVID pandemic the organization is planning to incorporate in our strategic thinking. We need to have this meeting in the next few weeks.

### **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines**

- While we are seeing less interest in testing and vaccination because of improving case positivity numbers – we are still doing testing and vaccination every day at the clinic and planning for a large weekend vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 12. If there are any changes in these plans, we will inform the community.
- We also got a large supply of N95 masks from Public Health. We are putting together plans to distribute them in our community. They will be available for pick up from our triage shed starting next week

### **Facilities**

- Our remodeling activity for the main building first floor has picked up steam. Once completed, it will reorganize office spaces, add an employee conference room, redo employee lunchroom and restroom, put in a secured entry door, add additional fire escape door, address some structural issue such as shear wall for earthquake protections, appropriate X-ray radiation shielding for work area, and termite damage treatments. In general, it should make the space more effective and efficient workspace. Funding for this activity is mostly coming from last year's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) infrastructure improvement grant. Board members Jim Nybakken and Carolyn Abst along with staff member David Abdo are leading this activity. I appreciate their help.