



CEO Report Notes from January 6, 2021 Board Meeting

Ara Chakrabarti, CEO

The following is an outline of comments from the CEO at the recent RCMS Board Meeting.

A complete recording of the board meeting will be available at:

<https://www.rcms-healthcare.org/board-of-directors.html>

(scroll down on the web page to Meetings – Recording and Documents)

Community Communication

- Continued weekly interview with ICO reporters on COVID-19 and associated topics.
- Ara and Barb Brittell had two interviews on KGUA (Peggy’s Place) on December 11 and December 23 covering various RCMS related topics. Recordings are available here: <https://soundcloud.com/kgua>
- Provided multiple updates through our website, Facebook, Instagram, and various location ListSers.
- Bi-weekly RCMS Pulse newsletter. Community members can sign up here: <https://www.rcms-healthcare.org/the-pulse.html>

Organizational/Operational Update

- Our newest provider, Gretchen Duran, joined our team effective this week. She is coming to us from Adventist Health in Ukiah where she was an ER provider since 2015. Initially she will be the third provider in our Urgent Care. We welcome Gretchen.
- The RCMS-sponsored 403(b) employee retirement plan went into effect starting January 1.
- Our new more robust and comprehensive health benefit package also went into effect January 1.
- On December 31 we received a re-designation as an approved Alternative Emergency Medical Service (EMS) receiving facility for the Coastal Valley EMS.
- The billing team has moved out of the main Gualala building and has relocated to the Elaine Jacob Center in Gualala.

COVID-19 and Vaccine

- We saw a significant surge of COVID-19 positive patients in December.
- RCMS is approved by county as a vaccination location and have started giving vaccine starting the week of Dec 21, 2020.
- Through the end of December we have given 77 COVID-19 vaccines and expect another 30-35 vaccination this week. These are all Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines and for Tier 1a participants.
- There are significant logistical challenges with vaccine distribution.

- Started an activity to gather names of community members willing to take the COVID-19 vaccine. We want to be ready as more vaccination doses become available. The survey is available in English and Spanish through our webpage. <https://www.rcms-healthcare.org/>
- RCMS is pushing hard to get more vaccines to distribute to our community.

Facilities

- As part of our long-term facilities initiatives, we had plans for an engineering organization to come out and take a look at the Gualala main building infrastructure from a structural, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, perspective to see if the infrastructure will allow significant modification of that building. Because of the COVID-19 surge in December, we had to call that off.
- In the meantime, since the billing team has moved out, we are looking at some minor modification in the first floor to increase/improve the functional area as well as bring some of the administrative work downstairs from the clinic upstairs. An initial plan is put together working with board members Carolynn Abst and Jim Nybakken. This consists of putting up few internal walls. Now we are trying to get some estimates from contractors before we decide to go forward. While we decide on a longer-term facilities plan, this should help us free up one more patient care room upstairs, create a conference room in the building, and fix up the lunch area.
- We are still pursuing options to replace the triage tent with a more permanent structure – expect to have something in place this month.

General Thoughts

- 2020 has been a traumatic year for RCMS. Starting with apparently insurmountable financial difficulties, and then getting hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. With all that, we did finish the year in a much better shape than many had expected. Credit for that goes to our providers, our clinic support staff, our administrative staff, our board members, and most importantly, our community. You all came to bat for us and help change the trajectory of RCMS. While there are still many challenges in front of us, thank you all for your involvement and your support. I wish you all a Happy New Year.