



CEO Report Notes from July 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

- Quarterly townhall meeting was held on July 14. Primary focus of the discussion was RCMS' 21-22 fiscal year budget.
- On July 13, we were invited to appear on Peggy's Place radio show on KGUA. Discussions there covered vaccination status and other RCMS related topics. We want to thank KGUA for giving us the opportunity to communicate to their listeners.
- In coordination with Mendocino County Public Health Department, a PSA spot encouraging vaccination is running at the Arena Theater in Point Arena.
- We continue to inform, through our website and social media outlets, COVID-19 and other healthcare related pertinent information to our community. Thank you to our communication team comprising of both volunteers and staff members.
- We continue to publish our bi-weekly electronic newsletter – The Pulse. Currently we have 1,200 unique email addresses that are getting this newsletter.

Organizational/Operational update

- Jennifer Black has joined our organization as Practice Manager. Her role includes overseeing our clinical activities. Jennifer worked for RCMS in the past and her initial focus will be primary care activities.
- Barb Brittell, long time provider in our Urgent Care, has decided to leave RCMS in early October and return to East Coast to be close to her family. Barb has been with RCMS since 2013. Her dedicated work in Urgent Care, with the Leadership Team and with the COVID-19 response has made all the difference with our patients, our community and our organization, and she will be sorely missed. We thank her for her many contributions to RCMS. While it will be difficult to fill the void left by her, we have begun a search for a candidate to fill the need in Urgent Care
- We are having difficulties in recruiting – particularly nurses for Urgent Care. This is a critical need for us now.

- We have a new contract CFO from Wipfli – Amy Fawcett. Amy replaces Angela Robinson who performed that function for last 2 years.

COVID-19 and Vaccine

- We organized a thank you BBQ luncheon for all volunteers and staff who helped us put together the RCMS coordinated testing and vaccination clinics for our community. We could not have achieved what we have been able to do for our community without their help. We also want to express our gratitude to Gualala Arts center and in particular Sus, the Gualala Arts Executive Director for letting us use their facility for this event.
- So far, we have administered more than 7,600 doses of vaccines by RCMS -- about 3,700 people fully vaccinated with two doses about 200 people with one dose.
- We have seen an increase in COVID case positivity in the recent weeks. The majority of the positive cases are unvaccinated people. As such, we have restarted our daily vaccination clinics. We have enough vaccines of all three kinds – both walk-ins and scheduled vaccination and testing are available. We strongly encourage all unvaccinated community members to get vaccinated and take other precautions. Mendocino County Public Health Officer has also put out a strong recommendation last Friday and that Public Health announcement is available on our website.
- We also have in place a vaccination protocol for RCMS staff. This vaccination protocol is similar to the ones in other clinics in Mendocino County and established with consultation with other clinics and guidance from Public Health. This protocol strongly encourages everyone to get vaccinated. If someone is unvaccinated because of approved reasons such as medical conditions – they must wear an N95 mask at all times and must be tested on a weekly basis. We also have another meeting this Friday with all clinics and hospitals in Mendocino County together with County Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren to review this protocol.

Facilities

- Facilities committee (consisting of numbers of board members along with some staff members) continues to look at remodeling initiatives for Gualala main clinic 1st floor to optimize space use there. This project is taking longer than we anticipated.