



CEO Report Notes from March 25, 2022 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

- RCMS hosted a townhall meeting on May 17 at the Gualala Community Center. About 30 community members attended. This was the first fac- to-face meeting we had in the last 24 months or so. Discussions covered topics related to COVID vaccination, retiring providers, new providers joining RCMS, our budget process, and some high-level discussions on our longer-term strategic plan. A number of staff members including one of our providers participated in the Q&A part of that meeting.
- On May 18 I participated in a radio discussion on KGUA with Dr. Andy Coren, Public Health Officer for Mendocino County. A variety of topics were discussed including COVID vaccinations and their efficacy, Public Health Department’s involvement in our area, children’s formula shortage, and Medical insurance eligibility. It was a good discussion. Thank you Peggy Berryhill and KGUA for putting this together.

Organizational/Operational Update

- Two of our providers are retiring this month – Dr. Kal and Jesse Ewing. We had a BBQ luncheon for all employees to recognize their services to RCMS and the community over many years and wishing them best for their retirements. A number of board members were also joined the activity.
- We also welcome our newest provider to RCMS team – Kathy Willems. She is a Nurse Practitioner and will be member of our primary care provider team. Kathy started this past Monday. She is relocating from Truckee area – welcome Kathy!

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination

- Currently we are offering vaccines to our patients daily at their regularly scheduled appointments if it is appropriate.
- Additionally, community members can call and see if we have walk-in availability on weekdays (Monday through Friday). Sometimes we do not have the capacity to offer vaccines for walk-in because of staffing or supplies so people do need to call first at 707-884-4005.
- We have not seen enough community interest to schedule another booster clinic but that can be done as interest increases.
- RCMS does have monoclonal antibody treatments available for patients. We have both the preventative product, Evusheld and the oral antivirals, Paxlovid and Lagevrio which are for confirmed infections of Covid-19. We are one of very few clinics in the state that have the capacity to test and treat.
- RCMS is testing symptomatic patients and encourages the community to sign up for the free ship-to-home test kits provided by the federal government. They can be ordered at: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>
- Mendonoma Health Alliance (MHA) also offers FREE rapid testing at their offices in Gualala Monday through Thursday, by appointment. Pre-procedural PCR tests are available to RCMS patients who have an order from the surgical center as long as we have adequate supplies, scheduling with Urgent Care is the process for this.

Facilities

- And the noise, and the dust and the work continue. Still shooting for completion in June.