



CEO Report Notes from May 26, 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 is now scheduled to be in June. Information will be provided to the community once a date is set.
- Both Sonoma and Mendocino Counties are expecting this coming fire season to be more severe and active. RCMS, as a part of essential services providers to our community, is planning and participating in disaster preparedness activities.
- Our dental department is coordinating an activity in conjunction with Arena Union Elementary and Manchester Elementary schools to provide dental health screening to students.

Organizational/Operational update

- We have initiated an activity to reengineer our hospice-like services that we provide. Services such as care transition, home health visits, palliative care and other related care services are important and needed in our community. In the recent past, we had got into financial and operational difficulties in continuing to provide these services. We are working on restructuring these into a long-term sustainable model. This is led by our provider Lois Falk with involvement from board members Gabriel Ramirez and Janis Dolphin – thank you both. MHA and community volunteers will also be involved in supporting this activity.
- On the people side of the business – we are working on a new initiative to recognize milestone anniversaries for our dedicated long-term employees (5, 10, 15, 20 year anniversaries).
- We are also planning to increase the maximum RCMS contribution to employee 403(b) retirement plan from \$250 to \$400 per year per eligible participants. We have about 25 employees signed up so far and hoping to have more team members taking advantage of this retirement benefit.

- We have two new employees starting – one front desk person and lab supervisor. The lab supervisor comes to us with extensive lab management experience and will help us refine our lab process and procedures and get us ready for our lab audit in July.
- We participated in a presentation from UC Davis School of Medicine discussing possible ways their interns can have rotation at RCMS. Representatives from their MD, PA, and Nursing program participated. Discussions are still at a very preliminary stage.
- Our provider team met at an offsite earlier this month. This meeting generated a number of valuable ideas and suggestions. We will meet to discuss how and what can be implemented.
- Our new fiscal year will start July 1. We are working with the Finance Committee to finalize FY21-22 budget and will be presented to the board next month.

COVID-19 and Vaccine

- RCMS has administered about 6,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. We have about 3,250 people fully vaccinated with two doses about 300 people with one dose.
- Mendocino County Public Health Officer along with 15 clinics are recommended for national recognition by Partnership Health (MediCal) for their excellent coordination and collaboration in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in rural Mendocino County. RCMS is one the clinics.
- While vaccine supply is less of an issue now, we are seeing some vaccine resistance. Mendocino and Sonoma County are seeing an uptick in case numbers as well test positivity. Memorial Day weekend is coming up – and we are all tired of being cooped in our houses for more than a year. But the public health guidance is still to be careful -- particularly if you are not vaccinated and inside with non-family members or unknown people -- please still continue to wear masks. Better yet get vaccinated.

Facilities

- Facilities committee (consisting of five board members Rich Hughes, Jim Nybakken,Carolynn Abst, George Provencher, and Boris Albul along with some staff members) has received a preliminary estimate for the renovation/remodeling of the 1st floor of the Gualala main clinic – that estimate is being reviewed at this time.