



CEO Report Notes from October 27, 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

- We continue to communicate to the community through social media platforms, our electronic newsletter -- RCMS Pulse, as well as through the ICO on news related to COVID vaccination and other RCMS related information.
- Our electronic newsletter – RCMS Pulse, which comes out, generally, 2 times a month now has a distribution list of about 1,200 addressees and continue to get well received. Dawn McQuarrie, our Outreach Manager is doing an excellent job of putting this together. Thank you Dawn!
- I am planning to do some small scale in person community meetings over the next few weeks – probably in Manchester and in Timber Cove to start with. In process of working out the logistics for these.

Organizational/Operational update

- We have a new Urgent Care provider, Gabriel Smith, starting on Nov 1st. We will have three providers in rotation in Urgent Care going forward – at times with two providers available in Urgent Care.
- Also, two of our primary care providers, Dr. Mark Kal and Jesse Ewing plan to retire around June of 2022 – in about 8 months from now. Both have expressed interest in temporary short-term backfilling as primary care providers if needed. We will start our recruitment process immediately – while we have some time, we should note that there is a significant shortage of healthcare workers all across the nation.

- In the meantime, we are expecting a locum provider to start effective November 8.
- We are also recruiting clinical and administrative support staff to backfill separated and/or retiring employees.
- Our HR manager, Renee Kaucnik is very busy under a difficult recruiting environment to fill all the positions. Thank you, Renee, for all you are doing!
- There are also some reorganization and training for the clinical support staff is happening – I will let Jennifer, our Practice Manager and Dr. Afsoon representing our medical team comment on those.

COVID-19 and Vaccine

- We will continue to offer vaccines on Mondays and Fridays in the triage shed from 11:00am – 5:00pm outside the Gualala Medical Center, 46900 Ocean Dr, Gualala.

Will also host a flu/COVID-19 vaccination event at the South Coast Fire Department, 39215 Ocean Dr, Gualala on Saturday November 6, 9:00am - noon.

These vaccination events will always follow the current public health guidelines and will be "while supplies last."

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

For people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. CDC's recommendations now allow for mix and match dosing for booster shots.

- We are also getting ready to start vaccination for children 5 – 11 years old in coordination with local school districts both in Pt Arena as well as Horicon school districts. We are also reaching out to Kashia School district if they would need any help from us vaccinating their students. A survey is going out, as we speak, to collect

information on number of children needing vaccination, age groups, to help us plan appropriately. Right now, our intent, is to do children's vaccination at the clinic and not in the schools.

Facilities

- Our Helipad work close to completion – FAA approved lights are being installed today through this weekend. Once that is done, painting and marking will be the last item to complete. Our staff member Deborah Lane and our board member George Provencher are diligently working on this for many months. Thank you both for all your efforts. I will meet with them tomorrow to understand RCMS' responsibilities for on-going operation of the helipad following FAA and Caltrans's Helipad operation guidelines.
- And finally, our remodeling activity. We are almost there – starting the remodeling activities in Gualala main clinic 1st floor to optimize space use there. Work is expected to start in the next week or two.