



CEO Report Notes from March 31, 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

- March 1, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, reached out to our community and had a radio conference call with Peggy Berryhill on KGUA. He talked about the impact in a remote rural community like ours from COVID-19, discussed effectiveness and importance of the vaccination, and other related topics. Following his comments, I discussed with other panelist on our RCMS' roles and responsibilities in keeping our community informed, tested, and vaccinated during the pandemic. A replay is available at this link: <https://soundcloud.com/kgua/dr-anthony-fauci-on-kgua>

Organizational/Operational Update

- In an effort to upgrade our clinical tools and equipment, we are getting two brand new cardiac monitors. Since the beginning of the year, we have also bought new lab analyzer, a new ADA-compliant patient exam table and other tools and devices. These upgrades are overdue for long time and we plan to address them one at a time.
- With the rearrangement of office spaces in the Gualala main clinic area, we have been able to add another patient care room in our clinic. We also have equipped this room big screen TV monitor and audio/video equipment to have a permanent tele-medicine room for use of our providers.
- This month we also signed up with SacValley Medshare as our Health Information Exchange (HIE) platform to share patient information electronically with our healthcare partners such as hospitals and other providers. Adventist Hospitals, Sutter, Santa Rosa Memorial, UCSF, UC Davis and many others are all connected through this HIE platform. Once completed, our providers will be able to share

information electronically. We expect to have this integration completed by October of this year.

COVID-19 and Vaccine

- As of this coming weekend, we will have given more than 5,000 doses of vaccines in our community. About 2,000 people are fully vaccinated with two doses of vaccines and another 1,000 or so got their first dose. This is a significant achievement which would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our staff, our partners at Coast Life Support District, South Coast Fire Department, additional first responders, and more than 100 community volunteers along with county Public Health department. As a community, you must be very proud of this fact.
- Now we are transitioning into the next phase of vaccine administration for our community – we are in the process of signing up with Blue Shield, state appointed TPA, to get vaccine directly shipped to us bypassing the county public health departments. This transition will take couple/three weeks to get formalized. We are required to do this and hopefully this will help.

Facilities

- We continue our work to get bids for remodeling of the 1st floor of the main building to utilize the space better. Our board members Jim and Carolynn are very much involved in this effort – thank you both.