

Coast Democratic Club Public Forum

DOES OUR HOSPITAL HAVE A FUTURE?

February 3, 2022, 6-8 pm via Zoom

FORUM Participants

MODERATOR: Mendocino County Supervisor Ted Williams

Assembly Member Jim Wood, Chair of the Assembly Health Committee

Adventist Health

Jason Wells: Community Board Chair

Judy Leach: Administrator Adventist Health Mendocino Coast

Mendocino Coast Healthcare District Board

Amy McColley, Chair,

Jessica Grinberg, Past Chair

Mendocino Coast Clinics, Lucresha Renteria, CEO

Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation

Mary Kate McKenna, CFRE

Lia Holbrook, Director of Community Initiatives

Dr. William Miller, Medical Director & Chief of Staff, Adventist Health Hospital, Mendocino Coast

Mendocino County Supervisor Dan Gjerde, District 4

Fort Bragg Mayor, Bernie Norvell

Measure C Oversight Committee

Jim Hurst, Chair; **Kaye Handley**, member

FORUM CHAT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Jade Tippett: 1. For Assembly Member Wood and Senator McGuire's representative: Our Coast Hospital, serving roughly 12,000 lives, is facing an existential deadline under SB 1953 and AB 2190, requiring that hospital buildings meet Seismic Performance Category 5 by the year 2030. Given that the RAND Corporation in 2019* estimated that California has almost 400 hospitals that fail to meet SPC 5, including 170 "High Medi-Cal" hospitals like ours, and that the cost of meeting SPC 5 for all hospitals in California will cost close to \$35 Billion by 2030, this is clearly a systemic,

state-wide problem. The estimates for bringing our local hospital up to 2030 standards, either by retrofit or new construction, range from \$35 million to \$70 million, or about \$4,000, plus or minus, per person living on the coast, an impossible lift in the best of times. What is the State's plan for hospitals like ours?

Jade Tippett: 2. For Jared Huffman's Representative: Given that more than 140 rural hospitals nationwide have been forced to close simply by how our current health care system works -- or doesn't work -- and that obstetrics and delivery services are the first to go, how is the Administration and the Democratic Congress planning on addressing these health care deserts and supporting rural hospitals?

Jade Tippett: 3. For representatives of Adventist Health and local leaders: What is your vision of health care on the Coast in 2030 and beyond, given that the Mendocino Coast is a geographic island with limited ground and at times, no air transport access?

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Jade Tippett: 4. All: Since the Georgia Pacific Mill closed 20 years ago, the Coast Hospital has experienced, along with the town and community, a period of turbulent decline and struggle, a pattern on a community level that mirrors the pattern that individuals subjected to overwhelming and ongoing trauma exhibit in their personal lives. Symptoms include vacant positions and excessive turnover in personnel and management, persistent caustic narratives directed at the hospital and hospital personnel, repeated patterns of dysfunction and rancor on governing boards, and an inability for organizations to function in a consistent agile and efficient manner. This goes way beyond just our hospital, but what role do you see for yourselves and your various organizations in the mission of healing and bringing together our diverse coastal community in the mission of preserving, protecting and improving our local hospital and health care in general?

Mary Kate McKenna - MCHFoundation: **Assemblymen Wood:** Is there a formalized cohort of rural hospitals that are working together as one voice to advocate at the state level for our unique needs; including small communities being asked to find significant funding for retrofitting their essential hospital - this unfunded mandate will have a devastating effect on our community and as well other issues. If there IS do you see it as effective? If NOT do you see that as something to put work toward to create?

Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County Supervisor: Question: Is anyone aware of weekly/monthly housing available for nurses in need of housing? California Public Health has four nurses assisting at Sherwood Oaks and the nurses and they are more likely to stay longer if they can relocate out of hotel rooms.

Mary Kate McKenna - MCHFoundation: Thank you Dan, MCHFoundation is actively working on solutions for the challenge of finding short and long-term affordable housing for healthcare workers. We have had limited success one on one with new employees, but are brainstorming more efficient options.

Nancy Harris: Can **Adventist Health** lease some apartments and homes

Kaye Handley: If the retrofit figure can be negotiated down as AH suggests, do we really need to spend \$\$ on a new hospital?

Marianne McGee: Four years ago I put about \$50,000 over 6 months to renovate my two small houses to be turn key for hospital locums. After several months of only nurses with animals wanting to rent, I gave up and went back to moving myself in one house and renting the other, at under market rents, to local caregivers, who also need reasonable housing!

Zomala Abell: clear from info tonight we do not need new hospital.. the district speaking, grinberg, seems to want one.. I as 50 year resident and user of hospital want to use the current campus and I want to keep at least 25 beds and I want the emergency of Sherwood oaks dealt with now and request the district leadership help with this, also needed now, staffing, housing for staffing bddgd\\

Zomala Abell: sorry, salary for business level staffing: phone, records , etc, improving the service itself right now,i.e. communication and coordination between depts. (a client should not need to walk over to get lab results to have them at registration, they should be faxed in a timely manner.

Marianne McGee: I am sure that the fact I was the second toughest critic of the Edwards reign, there was no hope of cooperation from MCDH. I spent hundreds of hours recording and editorializing MCDH meetings on Mendocino TV. My only problem with the hospital now is seeing what ER hospital staff are putting up with 5150 patients taking beds and 01:32:54 SusanHolli: In my opinion the crisis is Sherwood Oaks for the level of care.. For the hospital, housing for staff is the greatest need.

Zomala Abell: thanks dr. miller re true need for large enough hospital and enough nurses. this hospital was double this size when the population was less, and yes, hospital care is often not only the best for health but the most efficient financially

Marianne McGee: I have had several recent visits to the hospital since the Adventists took over and am totally impressed with the hospital and realize the need. During my decades on the coast I have seen older people having to return to old communities for medial care. I will be 70 years old in 5 days putting up with unbelievable disruptions, four years after we passed Measure B with no better care here on the coast!

Dobie Dolphin: Continuing the oncology/hematology department is critical. Cancer patients should not have to go to Ukiah or Willits for treatment which could be as often as once or twice a week for months. Often patients can't drive themselves due to symptoms and/or side effects and public transportation as it exists is not an option.

P Close MD MPH: Needs assessment done correctly is a very big deal. It is a "specialty" endeavor, just as the retrofit/cost estimate consult was. The District should consider hiring a consultant with expertise in mobilizing community input, really captures stakeholder opinions, identifies known confounding factors (housing, staff shortages etc) etc. With the future of healthcare in the County at stake, using ad hoc assessment by people who are already overextended in their professional roles is risky. Thanks to Sup. Williams and Coast Democrats for getting this conversation upfront hard and fast.

Chess: need new hospital. i have a strong sense of smell - this hospital smells this like the one where I was born 70 years, ago.
01:41:53

Myra Beals: What has been the experience so far after losing OB services here on the coast?

Jason Wells: The foundation has been a strong financial supporter of great advancements at the hospital! We have the same highest quality of mammogram technology as the Bay Area thanks to the support of the foundation and

Mary Kate McKenna - MCHFoundation: marykate@mchfoundation.org - thank you Karen and I want to stay here! generous donors! ;)re when patients stay at hospital and when at home, in other words lets be the best

Jason Wells: The district is additionally committing \$2m a year in advancements and great support for the hospital!

Mary Kate McKenna - MCHFoundation: Thank you AHMC (Jason and Judy) as well as the District in their partnership in funding essential healthcare needs here on our coast.

Zomala Abell: repair

Jessica: Let's be the drivers of our healthcare moving into the future. This community has the talent and resources. Thank you AHMC, MCHF, MCC and other organizations in the strong support it provides to coast residents.

Zomala Abell: yes, let's get smart and use the building we have!!!we are compliant. some changes for 2030, great. repeat, essential to stay at minimum of 25 beds. essential to correctly use Sherwood oaks.let's improve care by having enough local people, having enough tech improvement, being creative at innovation and service

John Cottle: The hospital needs Sherwood Oaks to relieve pressure on swing beds, but SO isn't able to find enough staff. Part of the reason is that we cannot pay nurses and CNA's what they deserve. It comes down to wages and housing.

Kathy Wylie, Club Technical Advisor: Perhaps Dr. Cottle wants to comment on Sherwood oaks?

Michelle Blackwell: Sounds like you might want to invite the community college also

Garth Saalfield: Easy to agree with the need for a needs analysis; but everyone should understand a hospital is the most expensive facility to build; period. Go into the conversation with that realization in mind. Just facts. Thanks 🙏! Great conversation! Again, I'm proud of this community! Sorry; I certainly didn't mean to interrupt any speaker.

Katy: Thank you for the conversation, and great moderating and questions, Ted.

Karen Bowers, Coast Democratic Club Chair: If you want a copy of the Chat, which is being recorded, please provide your email. Thanks!

Roanne: Thank you Karen!

SusanHolli: Thanks!

