

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ballot Measure to Remove After Hours Restriction For Urgent Care Tax (no increase)
- Contract RCMS For Daytime Urgent Care (\$150K) July 2012 to June 2015
- RCMS Will Conduct Fundraising For Balance
- RCMS Will Pursue Grant Funding
- CHWG Will Pursue Permanent 24/7 Solution
- Secure Joint Board Approval

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE WORKING GROUP
*Dedicated to developing healthcare
solutions to meet the needs of our community.*

TO: Board Members of RCMS and CLSD

DATE: September 19, 2011

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Funding of Urgent Care Medical Services

The Community Healthcare Working Group (CHWG), established in 2009 to explore ways of providing 24/7 urgent care to this community, recommends that the Boards of Coast Life Support District (CLSD) and Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS) take a team approach to providing a short-term solution to the immediate problem of the high cost of daytime urgent care coverage.

RCMS currently provides urgent care services at its Gualala facility from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at a cost of approximately \$725,000 annually. Reimbursement through patient insurance, Medicare and MediCal cover only about 60% of our costs because RCMS is unable to bill at higher rates as hospital Emergency Room would. Our existing federal grant funds are generally intended for primary care not for urgent care and our state funding was recently eliminated.

While RCMS receives and uses fundraising dollars to help support its daytime urgent care department, the total loss of approximately \$325,000/year to provide this service is not sustainable without additional financial assistance. Unless a viable solution is found, RCMS may be forced to reduce the level of urgent care services offered.

As the missions of both CLDS and RCMS state, the two organizations have a shared responsibility to meet the healthcare needs of this community. Providing daytime urgent care to area residents is one of those needs.

So that this service may continue to be offered at the RCMS Gualala health center, the CHWG recommends the following:

1. That the CLSD Board agrees to a tax ballot measure, as early as Spring 2012, that would gain public approval to broaden the After Hours tax measure, remove the current restrictions and allow funds, collected by CLSD, to be used for urgent care services (day-time and/or after-hours) subject to the limit of the existing tax collection. This would not require any property tax increase.

With the passing of this measure, CLSD would contract with RCMS to provide daytime urgent care coverage at its Gualala health center and support those services with an annual payment of \$150,000, effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

2. That the RCMS Board agrees to prioritizing fundraising dollars to support their urgent care services and commit to raising a minimum of \$170,000 annually, through June 30, 2015, for this program. This amount, combined with the \$160,000 that would be received annually from

CLSD, should cover the financial loss associated with providing the service. RCMS agrees to diligently continue its efforts in seeking any type of grant funding that may become available for urgent/emergency services.

During the past five months, RCMS has raised almost \$70,000 to help support its daytime urgent care, evidence that this community is supportive of this service and anxious that it continue.

The successful implementation of these recommendations would initiate a stronger working relationship between CLSD and RCMS in the delivery of urgent/emergency medical care to area residents, and establish a cohesive base from which both organizations can move forward to address plans for long-term solutions to 24/7 urgent care coverage for this community.