

Tour of Mendocino Coast Hospital

Report by Jan McGourty, MPA

On July 11th I met with Peter Johnston, Coast Hospital Facilities Manager, for a tour of the Coast Hospital. I was expecting a quick two-bit, walk-through showing, but it turned out to be the million dollar docent tour. Other people who joined us were Kathy, our executive director, Davey Beak, Ambulance supervisor, Terry Ramos, MCH Foundation Chairman, and Kyle Brooks, Engineer for Adventist health.

Peter showed us the ins and outs of all the different buildings and shared their current and previous uses. He also showed us each of their power sources and explained the complicated working of hospitals. Many of the unused rooms in the older part of the hospital were filled with extra beds and equipment from the days prior to Adventist. I realized that the life span of hospital equipment is measured like dog years. One might think ten years is not long for an extremely expensive piece of equipment, but measured in dog years it is 70 years old. Thus many things are in need of replacing. The catch is that complete replacement might trigger the need to comply with current regulations on other things creating even more expense. So often extending the life of an old piece of equipment by fixing it is cheaper and wiser in the short run.

Adventist Health has done a wonderful with the material structure in the time that they have been here. The exterior wall have been patched and painted with special paint to eliminate water leakage and the interior walls have been painted soothing colors. New floors have been installed and I was impressed with how lovely the patient areas are. Everything is very clean and spotless. We visited the kitchen, which was busy preparing the food we had seen staff carrying in to-go boxes as they scurried down the halls. We met Sherri Borncamirand, the director of imaging and Sue Symonds, director of the lab which is expecting exciting up-to-date equipment soon. We saw the new ice machines that Kiley managed to acquire and we learned of positive/negative air flow.

Peter shared an incredible amount of information and ended the tour in the control room with the huge (scary) power circuit machines. Afterwards he graciously showed me the new van that will serve as a mobile clinic. When it is ready it will be a fantastic resource for the community and the district. Although I have only recently become acquainted with the Coast hospital and MCHCD, my findings from this tour is that Adventist is doing a great job and is a worthy partner for planning local health care for our future.

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