

Mendocino Coast Health Care District Talking Points

Preserving and Protecting Accessible Healthcare on the Mendocino Coast

- Mendocino Coast Health Care District (MCHCD) provides emergency services, in-patient and outpatient services as well as health care education to prevent, manage and treat chronic and acute medical conditions to the Coast, stretching from Rockport to Elk.
- The primary mission of MCHCD is to ensure the continuity of essential hospital services on the Mendocino Coast.
- In 2020, due to the uncertainty surrounding the hospital's finances and future, MCHCD contracted with Adventist Health, a large health care network with stable financial and professional resources.
- Adventist Health Mendocino Coast is a key component of health care services along the Coast, is a major employer in the region and provides a broader range of services than most Critical Access Hospitals typical in other rural communities.

Major Facility Upgrades and Repairs are Needed in Our Local Hospital Facilities

- MCHCD hospital facilities are 52 years old and in need of major repairs and upgrades to continue delivering health care on the Coast.
- In addition to several critical maintenance projects and needed capital improvements, the State of California has mandated that all hospitals be updated to current seismic standards by 2030. Failure to upgrade or replace our local hospital buildings could result in the closure of the hospital and clinic.
- Without an additional funding source, the MCHCD will be unable to meet its goal of upgrading the hospital's facilities, potentially forcing it to close the hospital and cease providing health care services and ambulance service to local residents.
- The closure of our local hospital would be a severe detriment to our community. The nearest other hospitals for critical emergency services are in Willits (45+ minutes away) and Ukiah (over an hour away).

Potential Source of Local Funding

- While no final decisions have been made at this time, the MCHCD Board of Directors is exploring the options around repairing and upgrading the current hospital facilities as well as a variety of modernization projects to provide expanded services to our community.
- The facility improvements are beyond the scope of MCHCD's current maintenance budget. The MCHCD Board of Directors is currently evaluating options for funding these potential – and critical – projects.
- One option is a potential bond measure to provide dedicated local funding to repair and upgrade our local hospital that cannot be taken away by the State or used for other purposes.
- A potential bond measure would require a detailed project list showing how funds would be used as well as require an independent citizens' oversight committee to ensure that funds are spent as promised.