



Adventist Health Howard Memorial
1 Marcela Drive | Willits, CA 95490

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley
275 Hospital Drive | Ukiah, CA 95482

December 3, 2019

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Measure B Committee
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Behavior Health

Dear Mendocino County Measure B Committee Members:

We anticipate that Adventist Health will begin management of Mendocino Coast District Hospital on January 6, 2020 and a vote will take place on March 3 that, if passes, will set in motion a 30-year lease by Adventist Health to operate Mendocino Coast District Hospital (MCHC) on behalf of the district.

As a Critical Access hospital, MCDH is allowed to designate ten beds specifically for mental health acute inpatient treatment. This would be very similar to the psychiatric health facility planned by the Measure B committee, but would actually allow a higher level of treatment, being associated with an acute hospital. In all hospitals in Mendocino County, we have 24/7 hospitalists on site to care for our inpatients and many times, patients in a psychiatric health facility have medical needs as well as psychiatric needs. By having access to onsite inpatient medical physicians, we will be able to provide a more comprehensive level of care, keeping more of our residents in county for their medical care.

Additionally, transforming an existing empty wing of a hospital into a locked psychiatric unit would be considerably less expensive than either of the sites that the committee is now considering. We propose that the Measure B committee consider designating funds for remodeling the part of the existing hospital to serve this purpose, in conjunction with Adventist Health providing the psychiatric services. This strategy will require the hospital to comply to the standards of the state commission that regulates hospitals, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).

In addition to adding consideration of MCHC as an inpatient psychiatric 10 bed unit, we would propose that the Measure B committee consider using the empty six bed intensive care unit in Ukiah for additional in-county psychiatric beds. Combined, the 10 on the coast and the six in Ukiah would total the necessary 16 beds desired to minimize expensive outmigration of psychiatric care.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Wells".

Jason Wells, President
Adventist Health Mendocino County