

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#22

Tuesday,
April 9,
2024

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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board@grossmonthealthcare.org



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Christian Wallis
DHA, MBA, FACHE
(619) 825-5050
cwallis@grossmonthealthcare.org

April 5, 2024

Chair Nora Vargas & Board of Supervisors
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

**SUBJECT: Item 22: Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Pilot Program Report —
*Grossmont Healthcare District Support***

Dear Chair Vargas & Supervisors,

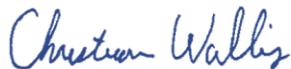
Grossmont Healthcare District (GHD) has been proud to help develop and financially support the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Pilot program, which has resulted in improved quality of care, reduced readmission rates and connected patients to much needed social services. GHD strongly recommends the Board of Supervisors to continue providing these important support services for clients by reauthorizing the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge program.

In 2021, the GHD convened a multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders and developed the East County Rural Health Coalition (ECRHC). The ECRHC pledged to develop opportunities to improve the health and wellness of our East County rural constituents. One of those opportunities was the initiation of the Rural Health Post-Discharge Program. Over the last year, GHD has worked with Supervisor Anderson's office, County Cal/Fire, County Health and Human Services Agency, Sharp Grossmont Hospital and San Ysidro Health to establish a process which provides post discharge follow up care. Clients who participate in the program receive home visits from a County Public Health Nurse and County Paramedic who support patient recovery by reinforcing post-discharge care directions, assessing patients' clinical and social needs, providing case management, referring patients to County programs and addressing issues around the patient's home. In addition, the client is provided care kits, durable medical equipment and safety precaution items as well as access to social, behavioral, medical and dental services.

The initial outcomes of the program have been a great success. Among clients who elect to participate in the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Pilot, only 4.0% were readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of discharge, while 13.9% of clients who declined participation in the program had to be readmitted to the hospital. Although the quantitative data has clearly shown the clinical impact of the program, it is the overwhelming positive testimonials from the rural clients themselves that serve as an even better indicator of success. The constituents in our rural areas often feel isolated and forgotten. The Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge program has been a resource that lets them know that we care.

GHD applauds Supervisor Anderson and the entire San Diego County Board of Supervisors for their support of this program as a pilot in the 2023-24 County budget. GHD has pledged to support the program for an additional year and urges the Board to reauthorize the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge program for the upcoming budget year.

Sincerely,



Christian Wallis
DHA, MBA, FACHE
CEO, Grossmont Healthcare District



SAN YSIDRO HEALTH

April 8, 2024

The Honorable Joel Anderson
Supervisor, Second District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

RE: SUPPORT – Rural Health Post Discharge Pilot Program

Dear Supervisor Anderson,

On behalf of San Ysidro Health which provides access to critical healthcare services throughout San Diego County, we are pleased to pledge our strong support for **the continuation of the Rural Health Post Discharge Pilot Program.**

Community Health Centers, such as ours, provide equitable and culturally competent access to healthcare services to millions of individuals and families living in medically underserved areas throughout the state. Here at San Ysidro Health, we provide medical, dental, and behavioral health care in over 30 sites throughout San Diego County; and, in 2023, provided services for nearly 145,000 unique patients through more than 600,000 patient visits in the communities we serve.

We are pleased to be a partner in the Rural Health Coalition which meets regularly to identify solutions for families living in rural east county, who are often without services readily available in the urban parts of our county. Health needs do not decrease just because families don't have access to services.

The rural discharge program has been an innovative way to connect with residents and prevent avoidable re-admissions through home visits. As a partner in this effort, San Ysidro Health accepts referrals for patients who are seeking a regular source of primary medical care. In addition, we welcome all participants for behavioral health and dental services at our full-time site in Campo.

We highly encourage the continuation of this program and for continued County partnerships improving the wellbeing of our East County residents.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Mattson
President & CEO