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Navarro County Ambulatory Care Association (NCACA)

History:

NCACA formed as a non-profit organization in 1996 to raise funds for a new public health facility to replace the existing space which was unacceptable for health care. The new facility, built and paid for in full, opened at 618 North Main Street in 1998 and NCACA has continued the upkeep ever since.

NCACA is run by a board of concerned and compassionate citizens of Navarro County. Three years ago, Dr Kent Rogers, Medical Director of the Health Department, asked if NCACA would assume a new mission to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in our Main Street facilities.

Proposed FQHC Mission:

"We strive to ensure all the people of Navarro County and surrounding areas in need are provided quality health care services"

"We are dedicated to preserving and promoting our unique diversity and improving the quality of life of the residents here."

Dr. Kent E. Rogers Clinic:

The proposed new FQHC clinic is named after Dr. Rogers whose vision and dedication led to this opportunity. The proposed FQHC is faith based, community based, and patient directed. Recent Harvard/Cambridge research suggests that in the United States, one (1) person dies every 12 minutes because they do not have access to medical care. This is unacceptable for our friends and family members here in Navarro County where we have lost 12 medical providers in the last year alone! Therefore, our purpose, along with our community partners, will encompass:

1. Improve access to health, dental, and mental care, regardless of age, or ability to pay
2. Health education and access to information
3. Outreach services, including telehealth
4. Expanded access to all types of health services

FQHC Funding to Date:

Initial grant money was received in October 2022 which is being judiciously utilized for startup expenses to last through early 2024. In addition, the Navarro Community Foundation and Navarro Health Services Foundation have graciously provided critical additional funding to help us meet some of the FQHC requirements. However, our current combined grant money will not allow us to reach all the requirements in a timely manner. While no firm date for resuming release of FQHC funds has been announced, there is credible speculation that it may occur by 2024. Therefore, NCACA's goal is to complete our preliminary FQHC application by August 31, 2023.

To complete our FQHC application, we are required to upgrade our facility, hire more in-house clinical providers, implement better computer technology, establish a sliding fee schedule for those who meet poverty guidelines, provide preventive dental services, well woman checkups, pap smears, breast cancer screenings, transportation services, an ongoing follow-up care program, quality assurance program and telehealth care.

FQHC Fundings – Current Opportunity

We are seeking the financial assistance needed to meet the above listed FQHC guidelines.

Currently, county tax dollars of \$500,000 are matched annually by the state with the resulting \$1,000,000 then disbursed to Navarro Regional Hospital. Publicly available information states that Navarro Regional Hospital is owned by investment spinoffs of JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs-New York investment banking firms. We are asking our commissioners to please consider directing these indigent funds to the Dr. Kent E. Rogers Clinic to remain under local control. These funds can then be more cost effective spent providing Navarro County citizens with a locally owned and operated medical home.

At one point, the Health Department was seeing patients' referrals on the County Indigent Program, but Navarro Regional Hospital stopped these referrals some years ago. Currently, Navarro Regional Hospital reports serving 40-50 patients monthly in the County Indigent program. With \$1M in annual indigent funding,

the Kent E. Rogers Clinic estimates initially serving at least 1,000 patients annually – and more, as the clinic grows.

Dr. Joseph McNally, Jr., was involved in the original County Indigent arrangement when he was the Medical Director of Medical Arts Clinic. He would like the County Commissioners to know that he completely supports moving the county tax payers Indigent fund to the Kent E. Rogers Clinic. We are very excited to be able to provide a permanent medical home to all citizens of Navarro County. We would like to thank our County Commissioners for your support and time.