

PROGRESS TOWARDS SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT'S NEW HOSPITAL

FINANCING

Through the generosity of our community, SoHum Health Foundation has raised over \$3M in donations and long-term pledges for the capital campaign. The Healthcare District has invested another \$3M towards the project to purchase the property, conduct feasibility studies, and begin the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) review process. These investments provide the necessary community support to secure a low interest USDA Building Loan.

The preapplication for the USDA loan has been submitted. This process has experienced some delays due to COVID because auditors have not been able to make onsite visits. Despite this, we expect USDA loan financing will be secured within the next year.

HOUSING

Lack of housing makes it difficult to recruit and retain quality healthcare providers and our auxiliary staff. Our Healthcare District is actively working to mitigate this issue by building two District owned housing complexes.

Project #1: 12 short-term rooms, with common kitchen area will be constructed across from the new hospital site behind Les Scher's former office. Construction should begin by the end of 2022.

Project #2: Long-term apartments located on a lot near Ray's Food Place.

These two projects should allow us to cease renting houses in town.

ARCHITECT

A Request for Qualifications to hire the Architect for our new Hospital and Clinic will be sent out this month. As soon as the Architect is hired (presumably this Fall) the official design phase will begin.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) surveys are underway.

- Geotechnical study
- Historical significance review
- Caltrans & property easements

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

This Fall, a \$5.6M utility infrastructure upgrade will begin at Jerold Phelps. The project includes improvements and upgrades to electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, domestic hot water systems, the generator and transfer switch, along with incoming electric service and pole relocation. Drainage issues are also slated for improvements. All electric service will be connected to Emergency Power for uninterrupted services during power outages.

All told, the upgrade will take 18 months to complete with minimal disruption to patient services. This will allow for future expansion of the Skilled Nursing Facility, after our Hospital and Clinic move to their new buildings at our Sprowel Creek Campus.

Community update: May 2022



WHAT'S NEW AT SOHUM HEALTH?

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

We now have a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Substance Use Counselor on staff.

Our Behavioral Health team offers:

- Individual therapy for all ages
- Substance use counseling
- Substance use and skill building groups
- Suboxone program

Referrals can be requested from SoHum Health primary care providers. We plan to continue to add programs based on the ongoing needs of our community.

PEDIATRICS

In 2021, we added Laura Mojica, PNP to our Clinic team. Laura is a board-certified Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant with 20 years experience working in local hospitals. She has provided obstetric, newborn, and lactation care, before transitioning to primary care. **Laura Mojica, PNP is accepting new patients!**

3D MAMMOGRAPHY - SUMMER 2022

A new 3D mammography machine will be installed this June. 3D mammograms provide more precise imagery and greatly reduce the number of inconclusive scans, that require additional and potentially painful follow up.

NEW LEADERSHIP

New leaders in the Hospital and Clinic are bringing their expertise and passion to guide us in improving our medical services.

Chief Nursing Officer: *Adelaida Yanez, RN*

Clinic Manager: *April Barnhart, RN*

MOBILE CLINIC - SUMMER 2022

Our mobile clinic plans to begin offering services in Shelter Cove this Summer, with more locations to be rolled out over time. The Mobile Clinic will offer basic clinic services including treatment for respiratory problems, minor injuries, sick visits, blood pressure, diabetes, urological concerns, and basic lab testing. More details on scheduling will be announced in the coming weeks!

ULTRASOUND - FALL 2022

Jerold Phelps Radiology Department will begin offering ultrasound this Fall. This long desired service will greatly reduce the need for locals to travel out of the area for care.

PCR COVID-19 TESTING

In addition to rapid, molecular testing, SoHum Health's lab now offers PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2. This allows us to support community members who need clearance for medical procedures, international travel, admission to inpatient psychiatric or substance-use treatment, or highly sensitive diagnostic testing. Results are typically available within 24 hours.

NEW COLLABORATIONS

The Family Resource Center is expanding services for local youth and families. In partnership with Redwood Community Action Agency, we are hiring a new Family Support Specialist. We are also collaborating with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office to start a Youth Diversion Program.

More information can be found at:
sohumhealth.org
(707) 923-3921

