

# DISTRICT HEALTH NEWS

Marin Healthcare District. Creating a Healthier Marin Together.

WINTER 2017

Dear friends, neighbors, and members of the Marin community,

I am both pleased and proud to announce that our Marin Healthcare District has been designated a Certified Healthcare District. This certification assures Marin voters that Marin Healthcare District adheres to a core set of standards and best practices in governance, as defined by the Board of Governors of the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD).



Certification is a distinction only 14 of the 78 California Healthcare Districts can claim. In order to earn this designation, we had to demonstrate compliance

with Best Practices in Governance as defined by the ACHD. As public agencies, California's Healthcare Districts have well-defined legal obligations for conducting business in an open, transparent, and responsible way. Compliance includes such matters as ethics, reporting, purchasing, conflict of interest, requesting public funds, and executive compensation. This newsletter is part of our commitment to you—it's one of the ways we strive to keep you informed and involved.

This certification is a tremendous recognition for the Marin Healthcare District. It validates our deep commitment to conducting our work according to the highest possible standards. It is an honor to serve the Marin Healthcare District and the community it represents.



Sincerely,

Lee Domanico  
Chief Executive Officer

## About California's Healthcare Districts

In 1945, the California Legislature passed the Local Hospital District Law, establishing the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) to represent, monitor, evaluate and address the local health needs of California communities throughout the state. Of the 78 Districts, 55 serve the state's rural areas, such as West Marin or Mendocino County, where access to care can be difficult to obtain. The Districts ensure access to essential health services and are directly accountable at the community level. Thanks to the Healthcare District System, millions of Californians have been able to receive quality healthcare. To learn more, visit [www.achd.org](http://www.achd.org).



## GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY MARKS THE OFFICIAL START OF MGH 2.0

July 28, 2016, was a historic date for the health of Marin. On that day, Marin General Hospital leaders and guests took part in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new hospital building. Speakers included:

- [Lee Domanico](#), Hospital & Healthcare District Chief Executive Officer
- [Patrick Bennett](#), MD, former Chief of Staff and Capital Campaign Cabinet Member
- [Kate Oppegaard](#), RN, Recipient of the 2015 Jackie Jewell Excellence in Nursing Award
- [Steve Kinsey](#), President, Marin County Board of Supervisors
- [Doug McConnell](#), Stroke Survivor and Host of KNTV's Open Road
- [Reta Haynes](#), Honorary Capital Campaign Co-chair
- [Mary Barbara Schultz](#), Honorary Capital Campaign Co-chair

The facility design began with the architects at Lee Burkhart Liu (LBL), now part of the international architectural firm of Perkins Eastman. The \$535 million project includes the hospital replacement building, employee garage, West Wing addition and renovation, plus all site and "make ready" work. All components will meet or exceed the latest state-mandated standards for earthquake safety. Lee Domanico, Chief Executive Officer, sees this safety mandate as less of an obligation than an opportunity "to give this community the state-of-the-art hospital it needs and deserves."

Every aspect of the new 260,000-square-foot hospital replacement building was conceived with the goal of creating a best practices environment and promoting excellent patient outcomes.

Scheduled to open for patient care in mid-2020, the new building will house the emergency department, surgical suites, intensive care unit, and 114 private rooms. The project also encompasses a recently completed parking structure and the renovation of the West Wing, which will provide an additional 57 private rooms. Long-term expansion plans include a five-story, 100,000-square-foot ambulatory services building.

When complete, the new Marin General Hospital will be a cutting-edge, patient-centric environment where medical teams can do their best work and patients can recover in the comfort of a beautiful healing place.



Photos: Mo DeLong

### Employee Parking Problem Solved

Over the past few years, finding a place to park on hospital grounds became increasingly difficult for patients, visitors, and hospital employees. The problem was alleviated this past June, with the opening of Marin General Hospital's new employee garage. This five-and-a-half-level structure with rooftop solar panels contains 415 spaces, plus charging stations for electric vehicles. Now surface lots closest to the hospital are reserved for patients, visitors, and physicians.

[These photos from the groundbreaking event capture community excitement about the new hospital.](#)



### Expanding Mental Health Care in Marin

Whether on the national, state, or local level, gaps in the care of mental health have become a hot-button issue for both mental health professionals and the general public. Access and affordability are critical issues nationwide, and our area is no exception. In Marin, 35% of residents who sought help for self-reported mental/emotional and/or alcohol-drug issues did not receive treatment.\* In response to community needs, the Marin Healthcare District has dedicated \$200,000 to strengthening and expanding Marin's mental health services.

The behavioral health programs at Marin General Hospital provide continuity of care, from acute issues requiring hospitalization to intensive outpatient therapy. These programs are well used and much appreciated community resources that have helped many people living with mental health issues. The hospital's 17-bed inpatient unit is a care destination for patients throughout Northern California. Patients who don't require hospitalization have access to a Partial Hospitalization Program or Intensive Outpatient Services Program.

In 2016, the Marin Healthcare District contracted with the Marin Psychiatry Group to grow the hospital's behavioral health program and make care more accessible beyond the hospital walls. The group includes Dr. Heather Carlberg, chair and medical director of the hospital's psychiatry department, Dr. Steven Allison, medical director of inpatient psychiatry, and Dr. Robin Bitner, medical director of intensive outpatient services. The three physicians, who formed a corporation for the specific purpose of working with the District, are based in Marin General Hospital.

\*From CHIS, pooled data for 2013-2015



The Marin Psychiatry Group is already involved in three important initiatives:

- [Refining the systems of care](#) in the hospital's behavioral health program, and recruiting additional talented, collaborative physicians and other mental health professionals.
- [Developing and deploying a "dual diagnosis" program](#) for patients wrestling with mental illness and addiction. This innovative joint collaboration with Marin County Health & Human Services will launch in 2017. The program will be offered in the evening, so patients well enough to work or go to school can continue to do so.
- [Expanding access to care](#) through embedded psychiatric consultation clinics in primary care and OBGYN practices. Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) are increasingly called upon to help their patients with common mental health issues like depression or anxiety. Adding a psychiatrist to a primary care practice provides PCPs with in-office support if they need a second opinion or advice on prescribing psychiatric medications. For OBGYN practices, an embedded psychiatrist can help with the treatment of pregnant women or new mothers who are experiencing mental health issues.

### Check Out Our Hospital Construction Web Site at [www.mgh2.org](http://www.mgh2.org)

It's going to be a few years before the new Marin General Hospital opens its doors, but it's easy to get a sneak peek by visiting our dedicated construction website, [www.mgh2.org](http://www.mgh2.org). The site is full of useful, up-to-date information on the project, including:

- Learn how Marin General Hospital's goal of patient-centric care informs the design
- Get details on efforts to make the new hospital safe, efficient, green, and future-friendly
- Meet the design, construction, and hospital teams powering the new hospital project
- Scroll through detailed, realistic renderings of Marin's future healing place
- See a timeline for the next four years of construction
- Catch up on the progress our builders have made to date
- Print out a parking map
- Get up-to-the-minute information on any construction-related disruptions
- Link to articles about our hospital construction project



## WE'RE GROWING!

### Introducing Vital New Healthcare Programs for Marin

Expanding Marin's healthcare services is an essential part of our responsibilities. Thanks to the recent additions and improvements listed below, residents can find an even broader range of excellent specialty services, right here in Marin:

- **Braden Diabetes Center** is now hosting UCSF's renowned Madison Clinic Pediatric Diabetes Program, under the leadership of pediatric endocrinologist and Madison Clinic Director Dr. Saleh Adi.
- Three new physician offices have joined our network: **Bon Air Internal Medicine**, **North Bay Family Medicine**, and **North Bay Rheumatology**.
- Marin General Hospital Emergency Department nurses have completed training to learn "**Ouchless**" ED techniques to continue to improve quality of care for all ages. These include needle-free shots, "shot blockers" to diffuse injection pain, distraction methods, and the use of medical dolls to explain treatment in a child-friendly way.



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