

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 12, 2014

For more information, contact: Daymon Doss, Interim Executive Director

Phone: (707) 829-4300

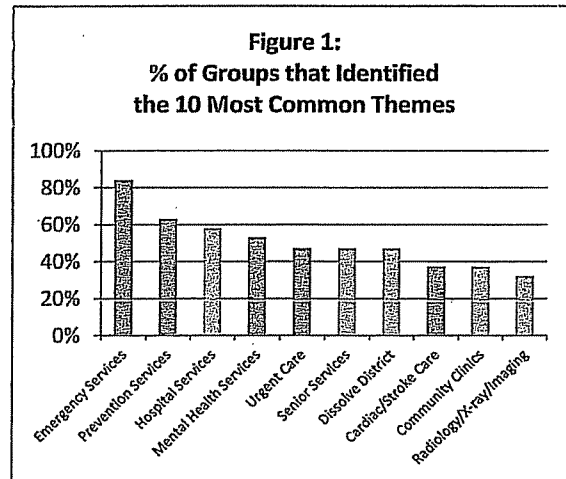
DDoss@PalmDriveHospital.com

Palm Drive District Shares Community Listening Session Results

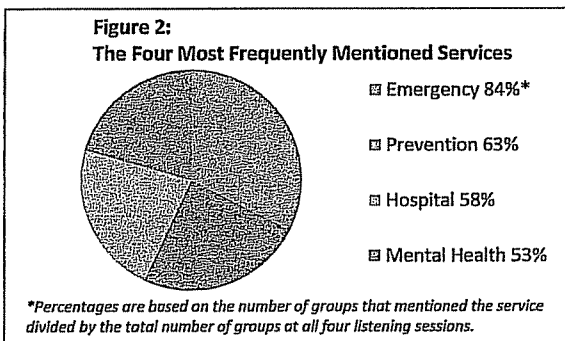
SEBASTOPOL, Calif., (Sept. 12, 2014) – The Palm Drive Health Care District Board of Directors shared information from the four community listening sessions it held this June and July. The listening sessions provided an opportunity for district residents to share ideas for health care services needed in the District and to learn more about the District’s planning process. Community listening session meetings were held in Bodega Bay and Guerneville, and two meetings were held in Sebastopol. Each meeting lasted two hours and was attended by 25 to 75 residents as well as District Board and staff members. The minutes from each session and a summary table of recommended services are posted on the District’s website at www.PalmDriveHospital.com.

After a brief update by the District, listening session meeting participants reviewed district health and demographic data. Participants then divided into small work groups to discuss services they felt would benefit District residents within the next one to two years.

Small group recommendations included a wide range of services. In order to summarize the input, 10 overarching health themes were identified as shown in Figure 1.



The four most frequently mentioned service areas were: emergency services, listed by 84 percent of the 19 work groups; prevention services, listed by 63 percent of the work groups; hospital services, listed by 58 percent of the work groups; and mental health services, listed by 53 percent of the work groups (refer to Figure 2).



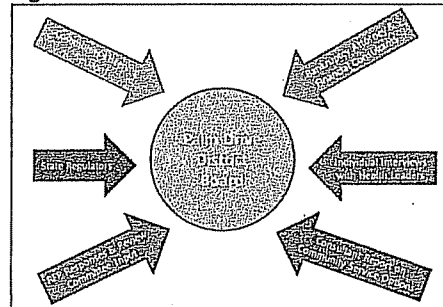
Participants expressed a strong interest in emergency services including a hospital emergency room (mentioned by 8 of the 19 groups) and improving ambulance response times. Another commonly mentioned option was hospital services; however meeting participants in Guerneville did not voice a need for hospital services but

emphasized other preferences. Multiple groups provided ideas on how to increase hospital appeal and assure business growth. Many small groups mentioned prevention services including screening and intervention for chronic and communicable diseases, education to promote healthy behaviors (nutrition, exercise, tobacco use) and prevention and treatment for alcohol and drug abuse issues.

Listening session participants also developed a list of potential agencies that could partner with the District. Ideas included community health centers, insurance companies, local health care professionals, other hospitals, schools, businesses, the faith community and many others. Participants who wished to do so were encouraged to leave additional written comments on cards.

Detailed information from the community listening sessions has been shared with the District Board of Directors. The Board has also commissioned a report regarding community based health services that the District could provide. In addition to this input, the Board and staff are consulting with health leaders in the community, financial experts, and bankruptcy attorneys and state regulators to inform their decision-making process (refer to Figure 3).

Figure 3:



The District has appointed and convened review committees to consider the three proposals submitted in response to the District's "Request for Proposals." Proposals, which are posted on the District's website, include a plan to operate an urgent care center submitted by Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, a community paramedic program submitted by the ambulance provider American Medical Response, and a proposal to lease the hospital facilities to the Palm Drive Foundation, an independent non-profit which would operate inpatient and emergency department services.

A presentation regarding community health service options will occur at a special Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

###