

After reading the recently submitted questions and listening to others, I think people are essentially asking two questions.

Is the MCHD being managed well and financially stable?

These are relevant questions. How to maintain a local system of care should be on the mind of every adult that lives in Morrow County.

The issue presently is how do we find a productive approach to ensure the sustainability of care.

Thanks for listening as I speak to what I think the balance needs to be in order for these conversations to be useful.

Be familiar with information currently available

- strategic plans, financial records, metrics measuring industry standards compared to peers, and public reports

Understand the long-standing issues that affect the provision of rural health services. The MCHD is not that different from other rural providers throughout the nation, which are also experiencing persistent challenges.

- workforce recruitment and retention
- regulatory changes
- the need to swiftly modify operations to adapt and remain viable as organizations with very slim financial margins
- COVID-19 pandemic and recovery which does not just affect health care providers, but the many entities that the Health District partners with to provide services to the community (school districts, government agencies, community-based, and social assistance organizations)

Understand community's real time needs.

Governance Board and administration

The Governance Board is charged with understanding and acting in response to the broad collective of information previously described. Local support is imperative to help ensure the sustainability of local care. The community has a role in shaping health service by helping to determine what the needs are.

We have a new CEO and governing leadership. They deserve the opportunity to work with the community to find a path for ensuring access to essential services.

To the Board: Thank you for caring enough, volunteering your time, and for choosing to represent people who live in our county! Whether the issue is workforce, cultural change of the organization, adjusting to the uncertainty of issues (such as the rising cost of providing care and hopeful receipt of adequate reimbursement), OR actions taken by entities outside of the district's control that threaten the viability of local care, it will take time, thoughtful consideration and support from the community, which I hope you receive.

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