



January 29, 2024

The Honorable Michael B. Harper
Judge of Trinity Superior Court
P.O. Box 1258
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: 2023 Civil Grand Jury – *Mental Health Report*

Dear Judge Harper:

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2024

TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

This letter is the required response from the Mountain Communities Healthcare District (MCHD) Board of Directors by the Trinity County Civil Grand Jury in their 2023 Mental Health Report. All five members of the Board of Directors of MCHD were presented the report; it was put on the regular Board Agenda and discussed in open session. We discussed the importance of mental healthcare in Trinity County, as well as our commitment to improving it wherever possible. Mental healthcare is a very complicated topic and solutions rely on many entities working together to utilize all resources available.

We understand this process was respectfully conducted by the Grand Jury with improving local mental healthcare being their end goal. We have also been alerted to numerous discrepancies of the report findings versus actual fact. We believe that these inconsistencies are misunderstandings of the complicated system that Trinity County and many other counties face with mental healthcare. We also trust that all Trinity County organizations involved work very hard to provide the best care possible considering budget, skill, staff, and other resource limitations. These organizations include but are not limited to Behavioral Health, Sheriff's Department, schools, other Trinity County departments, and MCHD.

The MCHD Board agrees to promote internal solutions where possible. We hope to utilize the resources we have to endorse and stimulate positive change in caring for patients in a mental health crisis. We are also open to making space and connectivity available if external behavioral health staff is available around the clock. In our current facility, space is very limited, but we are very motivated to help out where we can to continually improve placement

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opportunities and positive outcomes for the crisis patients. Most importantly, we have already received a report that our MCHD CEO, the Director of Behavioral Health, and Trinity County CAO has already been in contact and all take this very seriously.

In closing, MCHD Board appreciates the time and attention of the Grand Jury toward mental health in Trinity County. We vow to be a good partner in helping to find improvements, with the understanding that resources are very limited with every entity involved. Due to limitations outside the control of any entity in Trinity County and significant skill and budgetary limitations inside local entities, we expect improvement to be challenging, but definitely needed.

Sincerely,



Dero Forslund, President
Mountain Communities Board of Directors

CC: County Administrative Office "Clerk of the Board"