

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: **Marin General Hospital: Moving Beyond the Impasse**
(Continued)

Report Date: **May 2, 2005**

Response by: **Suzanna Coxhead**

FINDINGS

- 1 (we) agree with the findings numbered: F2
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed;
include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered R3 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 7-11-05 Signed: Suzanna Coxhead

Number of pages attached 1

Response to Grand Jury Report 2005

Recommendations:

R3. The Grand Jury has asked each member of the MHD Board to abandon his/her long-term biases, acts with an open mind and defer making a final decision until sufficient information is procured and processed.

Response: I will definitely not make a final decision until sufficient information is provided to make such a decision. While I am open to affiliating with another health system, I am not open to having the District Board govern the Hospital as a stand alone Hospital. I have been a District Director for 11 years, ~~having been first elected in 1994, and with the exception of the first two~~ years, the District Board has been dysfunctional and is getting more so. I will never support politicizing the Hospital even more than it is now which would be the result if the District Board had direct control over the Hospital. I don't believe that setting up the Hospital for failure with that option is a reasonable choice. Yes, other communities have successful stand alone District hospitals, lucky for those communities the politics are not as destructive.

While Lewin's Final Report will be presented tomorrow, I don't know whether it will have all the information the Board needs to make a decision. I believe we need to know the full ramification of disengaging from Sutter. How would that affect the staff, the physicians, the Hospital's services, the County's Trauma Plan and the community health organizations? How much would it cost the District to disengage? Disengagement would likely not occur without more lawsuits and more acrimony. What impact does that have on the Hospital's future, morale of the providers and the patients' confidence in the Hospital? Having served on the Board through at least five + years of lawsuits and more than \$1 million of attorney's fees, I am not inclined to go through such a destructive period again.

I have other questions about financing the new tower/hospital project that would need answering before I made a final decision. I understand revenue bonds and how they work. Before I would support General Obligation bonds, it would be necessary for me to know who the Hospital management would be. GO bonds are protected from bad management at the Hospital but if the Hospital did not operate in the black, it is likely that the District would have to go back to the voter for more tax money to subsidize operating revenue. Consequently it is doubtful I would support GO bonds unless I felt confident that the management selected for the Hospital was capable of long term success as I wouldn't want to essentially "bait and switch" the voter.

No, I can't abandon my bias against a District Board governed hospital, a position that has only hardened after 11 years of dealing with the destructive nature of the continuous conflict. I will support an affiliation with any well run healthcare/hospital system.

