

DISTRICT HEALTH NEWS

Marin Healthcare District. Creating a Healthier Marin Together.

WINTER/SPRING 2012

A MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER RIENKS, PHD MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIR

Dear Fellow Citizens of Marin,

As the entity that oversees Marin General Hospital (MGH), it is the mission of Marin Healthcare District to ensure that every citizen of Marin, regardless of income or insurance coverage, has access to high-quality health care. Maintaining that level of care requires rebuilding MGH as a leading 21st century hospital that can withstand a major earthquake.



According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), there is a 63 percent chance that an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 or greater will occur in the Bay Area within the next 30 years. Marin Healthcare District is involved in a number of disaster education

programs, to help our family, friends, and neighbors stay safe—not just in our hospital, but in their homes. To this end, we are supporting the educational efforts of *Get Ready Marin*, including their informative training program on disaster preparedness.

Last fall, we marked the annual Great California ShakeOut by hosting an earthquake safety fair. We arranged for a demonstration of the Paraslyde Evacuation Sled to enable the safe evacuation of bed-ridden patients. We also offered emergency checklists, earthquake fasteners, emergency preparedness supplies, and literature from *Get Ready Marin* and the American Red Cross.

Our board members and executive team are taking the *Get Ready Marin* disaster-training program. What we are learning has only increased our motivation to raise the funds for a green, cutting-edge, new hospital building that complies with California's latest seismic requirements. In just three years, we will be breaking ground on the new hospital. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition and providing the people of Marin with a state-of-the-art hospital.



Are You Ready?

In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, we will all need to depend on our family, friends, and neighbors. Ultimately, preparedness begins with each individual. That's why Marin Healthcare District is collaborating with *Get Ready Marin* to educate community members about disaster preparedness. The training program, which is summarized in the *Get Ready Marin* Disaster Preparedness Manual, covers an incredible amount of useful information in one two-hour session. Topics include preparing your home for a potential disaster, creating a disaster plan, and keeping your family safe during quakes, fires, storms, floods, landslides, and power outages.

The *Get Ready* training program, can be completed at your local fire department, community center, or even your own home.



To sign up for a **GET READY** Disaster Preparedness Training Program, please visit www.getreadymarin.org.

Communicating with our Community

Marin General Hospital (MGH) is an independent hospital that belongs to the people of Marin. As the entity charged with overseeing the hospital, Marin Healthcare District needs to maintain openness and transparency to keep the public up to date on hospital news and plans for the future.

Over the past year, Jon Friedenber, Chief Fund & Business Development Officer for Marin General Hospital, has spoken to groups all over Marin. His presentations cover everything from the establishment of MGH's new Spine & Brain Institute to the creation of new physician alignment strategies, to an overview of the design plans for the new hospital. More community briefings have already been scheduled for the first quarter of 2012 for many local organizations, including:

- League of Women Voters
- Kentfield Planning Advisory Board
- San Rafael Leadership Institute
- San Rafael Chamber of Commerce
- Marin Republican Women Federated



- Marin Carpenters Union
- West Marin Senior Services
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce/Latino Council of Marin
- Sausalito City Council
- Marin Leadership of California Nurses Association
- Sustainable Marin

If you would like to attend or host a presentation, please call 415-925-7428.

Building a Better Hospital

On a glorious fall day, when the temperature is perfect and the bay and the sky are trying to out-blue each other, it's easy to forget that we live in a Zone 4 quake area, the highest possible geological rating for earthquake risk. In fact, there is a 63 percent chance an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 or greater will occur in the Bay Area within the next 30 years.

A 2001 evaluation by the State of California predicts that 40 percent of state hospitals could be unusable in the aftermath of a major earthquake. As Marin's



ONLY Trauma Center, Marin General Hospital will be an essential lifesaving resource in the event of a major quake. The oldest parts of the hospital date back to 1952, when standards for earthquake resistance were far less stringent. If a major quake were to occur, the hospital could be so damaged that it would be unable to respond to the urgent needs of local residents. Without a local triage site for the wounded, and with the real possibility of damage to the road system and bridges, the post-quake response would be drastically impacted. Marin County simply cannot afford to have its hospital be put out of commission by a quake or other disaster.

While seismic compliance is job one, the ultimate goal in building the new hospital is to enhance the safety, comfort, and wellbeing for all future MGH patients, doctors, nurses, and employees.

Plans for the new hospital include a five-story, 300,000-square-foot hospital replacement building, a five-story, 100,000-square-foot ambulatory services building, and two parking structures.

A safer, earthquake-resistant structure is just one benefit of the new hospital building. The hospital will provide the Marin General Hospital medical team with a best practices environment, including an Emergency Department with increased diagnostic and treatment capabilities, more efficient service, and shorter wait times. The green, attractive, innovative facilities will also result in more pleasant experiences, shorter stays, and—ultimately—better outcomes.

To design the new hospital, Marin Healthcare District has chosen the award-winning firm of Lee, Burkhart, Liu, Inc. (LBL). LBL combines an artful vision with an in-depth understanding of efficient



health care delivery. Their designs are always appropriate to the setting and the community, from the Spanish Mission-style Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital to sleek, modernist medical centers for USC, UCLA, and Stanford. Regardless of style, size, location, or functionality, LBL abides by the same essential design criteria:

- A focus on sustainability
- Humanistic, patient-focused environments
- Operational improvements for caregivers
- Modularity and future flexibility

LBL has a proven track record in health care architecture and their vision of "architecture's recuperative powers" is a perfect match for Marin General Hospital.

For updates about our plans, please visit our new Web site at www.marinhealthcare.org.

One Building We Can't Do Without

As the ONLY full service, acute care hospital in the county, Marin General Hospital (MGH) is a mainstay for tens of thousands of Marin residents. MGH offers a broad range of services available nowhere else in the county, including:

- **ONLY Trauma Center** – Experienced, multidisciplinary team specializing in providing state-of-the-art trauma care 24/7
- **ONLY Labor and Delivery Services** – A Family Birth Center offering private birthing rooms and a Level II neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- **ONLY full-service cancer care program** – A nationally recognized program with survival rates that exceed the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) rates for breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers
- **ONLY comprehensive heart and vascular care** – The county's only vascular and heart surgery, plus sophisticated care for A-fib and other complex issues
- **ONLY accredited Chest Pain Center** – Lifesaving treatment for heart attack victims in half the time of the national average
- **ONLY inpatient pediatric program** – 24/7 board-certified pediatricians available for inpatient and emergency care
- **ONLY Spine & Brain Institute** – A single point of access to comprehensive spine and brain care, including emergency and elective brain and spine surgery
- **ONLY certified Primary Stroke Center that can treat all types of stroke on site** – A complete spectrum of care, from prevention education to timely and effective stroke treatment of ischemic and both types of hemorrhagic stroke
- **ONLY acute inpatient psychiatric services** – Treatment programs tailored to meet specific patient needs

Big Plans for Our New Hospital

The new hospital building is being designed according to modern best practices:

- **Modular Design** – The new hospital is designed for flexibility, both vertically and horizontally, to allow for eventual modifications and acuity changes (e.g., a space that is designated as a 28-bed medical/surgery unit can easily be repurposed as two 10-bed ICUs)
- **Onstage/Offstage Floor Plan** – The new building will have separate hallways and elevators for staff and visitors to enhance efficiency, reduce the risk of infection, and protect patient privacy during transport
- **Adjacent Services** – To simplify access and workflow, all adjacent interventional procedures, including surgery, interventional radiology, electrophysiology, and the cardiac catheterization lab, will be grouped together on one floor
- **State-of the-Art Surgical Suites** – New, larger suites will accommodate all the latest equipment and enable cutting-edge procedures
- **Healing Environment** – The new hospital will have plenty of natural light and several easily accessible green spaces, including an accessible rooftop garden; most, if not all, patient rooms will be private



Taking a Stand for the Safety of Marin

Marin Healthcare District will be attending farmers markets with information on emergency preparedness throughout 2012. This will provide people with an opportunity to pick up earthquake safety checklists and literature, register for training sessions, and enter drawings for preparedness kits.

We will also be handing out pamphlets about the hospital replacement project and signing people up for Care Connection, a free Marin General Hospital program that offers a variety of healthy perks. Each month, we will have a booth at two or three of the farmers markets below:

- Tam Valley, Tuesdays 3 – 7 pm
- Corte Madera, Wednesdays 12 – 5 pm
- Agricultural Institute (San Rafael), Thursdays 8 am – 1 pm
- Mill Valley, Fridays 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Marin Country Mart (Larkspur), Saturdays 9 am – 2 pm
- Sausalito, Sundays 10 am – 2 pm