



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

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Date: October 15, 2024

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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4/5 Vote Required

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### **Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Recognizing West County Health Centers For 50 Years Of Service**

**Whereas**, community members came together and founded the Russian River Health Center in 1974, followed by the Occidental Area Health Center in 1976, demonstrating a grassroots commitment to comprehensive, quality, and accessible health care services for the communities of western Sonoma County; and

**Whereas**, after years of collaboration, these two independent health centers merged as West County Health Centers, Inc. (WCHC) in January 2000, and became a Federally Qualified Health Center in 2002, solidifying their dedication to access to health care for all regardless of ability to pay; and

**Whereas**, in response to community needs, WCHC expanded to ten sites, including sites in Forestville, Sebastopol and on three local school campuses, providing high-quality medical, dental, behavioral health and wellness services, particularly to underserved and marginalized populations in an extensive service area from Fort Ross to Valley Ford and from the Pacific coastline to Sebastopol; and

**Whereas**, WCHC has a rich history of addressing the social drivers of health and promoting health equity by engaging directly with residents to create community-driven solutions that address their specific health and wellness concerns, including specialized programs like the HIV/AIDS program, Teen Clinic, Healthcare for the Homeless program, holistic wellness services, gender services, and licensed school-based health centers; and

**Whereas**, despite multiple natural disasters, including floods, fires, and COVID-19 pandemic, and challenges such as the tragic fire in 2016 that destroyed the Russian River Health Center, WCHC has consistently aided the community above and beyond their normal operations and has demonstrated resilience and dedication to rebuilding and expanding services to better serve the community;

and

**Whereas**, dedicated staff, volunteers, and community members have supported and contributed to the mission of WCHC and remain committed to support, sustain and grow this vital community resource.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma celebrates the 50th Anniversary of West County Health Centers on October 22, 2024, at the Russian River Health Center, recognizing their half-century of unwavering commitment to ensuring access to high-quality, compassionate health care, and offers our support as WCHC continues as an essential part of the community's safety net for the next 50 years and beyond.

**Supervisors:**

Gorin:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbit:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**