



# COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION  
DRIVE, ROOM 102A  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

## SUMMARY REPORT

---

**Agenda Date:** 10/15/2024

---

**To:** County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors  
**Department or Agency Name(s):** Department of Health Services  
**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Jennifer Solito, 707-565-4774  
**Vote Requirement:** Majority  
**Supervisorial District(s):** Countywide

### **Recommended Action:**

Adopt a Gold Resolution recognizing West County Health Centers for 50 years of service

### **Executive Summary:**

The resolution recognizes and celebrates the 50th Anniversary of West County Health Centers (WCHC). It acknowledges the organization's unwavering commitment to providing compassionate and high-quality health care and offers the Board's support for WCHC's continued role in the community's health care safety net.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Background**

The Russian River Health Center was established by community members in 1974, followed by the Occidental Area Health Center in 1976. These grassroots initiatives were driven by local community members dedicated to enhancing access to comprehensive health care services in western Sonoma County. In January 2000, the two health centers merged to form West County Health Centers, Inc. This merger was a significant step in consolidating efforts and resources to provide more robust health care services to the community. WCHC achieved Federally Qualified Health Center status in 2002, reinforcing its commitment to providing health care to all individuals, regardless of their financial situation.

#### **Expansion and Services**

WCHC has expanded to ten service sites, including locations in Forestville, Sebastopol, and on three local school campuses. This expansion has allowed WCHC to offer a wide range of services, including medical, dental, behavioral health, and wellness services. The organization serves a diverse and extensive area from Fort Ross to Valley Ford and from the Pacific coastline to Sebastopol, with a focus on underserved and marginalized populations.

#### **Response to Community Needs**

WCHC has been proactive in addressing the social determinants of health and promoting health equity. Several specialized programs have been implemented, such as the HIV/AIDS program, Teen Clinic, Healthcare for the Homeless program, holistic wellness services, gender services, and licensed school-based health centers. The organization has demonstrated resilience in the face of challenges, including natural disasters like floods, fires, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, the fire in 2016 that destroyed the Russian River Health Center did not deter WCHC from continuing its mission. The center has since been rebuilt, and services have expanded to better meet community needs.

---

**Agenda Date:** 10/15/2024

---

**Community Support**

The success of WCHC is attributed to the dedication of its staff, volunteers, and community members, who have continuously supported and contributed to its mission. Their commitment has been crucial in sustaining and growing this essential community resource.

**Prior Board Actions:**

N/A

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

N/A

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Resolution

**Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:**

N/A