

## CAMARILLO HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

### INTRODUCTION

The 1997/1998 Ventura County Grand Jury received a citizen's complaint alleging the Camarillo Health Care District (CHCD) offers programs duplicated by the County of Ventura, private health agencies and others. The complainant further stated that the CHCD has outlived its original purpose but continues to receive property tax revenues to finance its services and programs. The complainant recommended dissolution of the CHCD and reallocation of the tax revenues received by the CHCD to the City of Camarillo and the County of Ventura.

On October 28, 1969, by a 76% favorable vote, the Pleasant Valley Hospital District (PVHD) was formed. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors, by resolution, declared the organization of PVHD and appointed five residents to serve as its first Board of Directors.

PVHD was formed to provide an acute care hospital in Camarillo.

In February 1970, a ballot measure was put before the voters to approve a \$3.7 million general obligation bond issue to finance construction of the hospital. The measure fell short of the required 66 2/3% vote. Subsequently, in June 1970 a similar ballot measure was put to the voters and was again defeated.

In October 1971 a nonprofit corporation was formed to finance construction of the hospital through a privately underwritten bond issue. The principal and interest payments were to be made under a leaseback arrangement with the PVHD.

Early in 1972 some local citizens led an effort to dissolve the PVHD. In March 1972 a hearing was held before the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and following testimony, the LAFCO voted 3 to 2 to retain the PVHD.

Following litigation to stop the project, the Ventura County Superior Court upheld the validity of the proposed financing and was affirmed by the District Court of Appeals in late 1972. The hospital was constructed and opened on July 15, 1974.

In 1982 the bonds used to construct the hospital were refinanced, the nonprofit corporation dissolved, the lease back arrangement eliminated and title to the hospital vested with the PVHD.

In 1983 Pleasant Valley Hospital was sold to a nonprofit corporation. Adult care services were retained by the PVHD for the purpose of providing health care to the senior population of the local area.

In May 1984 the PVHD was reorganized under the Health Care District statutes of the State of California and renamed the Camarillo Health Care

District (CHCD). The CHCD is governed by five elected directors. It has 17 full time employees headed by a chief executive director.

## **INQUIRY**

We conducted interviews with the complainant, CHCD trustees, chief executive director and staff members, officials from the City of Camarillo, Pleasant Valley Parks and Recreation District and the County of Ventura. We reviewed many documents pertaining to the CHCD and those received from other health care districts in the State of California.

## **FINDINGS**

Since the reorganization of the PVHD into the CHCD, the CHCD has expanded its programs and services to include six major areas. These are described as follows:

### **1. Adult Day Support Services**

Through Club Camarillo, this program is an Adult Day Support Center which provides participants with supervised care in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Clients enjoy scheduled activities that include socialization, music, exercise, games, educational programs, current events and reminiscing.

### **2. Community Outreach and Education**

This includes first aid, CPR classes and health education. Educational programs such as parenting workshops, children's nutrition classes, women's health series and nutrition counseling are also available. For Fiscal Year (FY) 1996-97 there were 10,122 people served by those classes and meetings.

### **3. Family Services (Wellness Services)**

Wellness and Preventative services constitute a major outreach of the CHCD. These include inoculation clinics, church and club wellness programs, durable medical equipment loan program, basic caregiving skills, shadow buddies, healthline and support groups.

### **4. Program Service Contracts**

This program provides funding to nonprofit agencies that offer services to CHCD residents directly within its boundaries. Residents do not have to travel outside of Camarillo to receive assistance in the areas of health, safety and wellness. Thirteen agencies currently have service contracts with CHCD. For FY 1996-97, 6,248 CHCD residents were served.

### **5. Senior Services**

These services provide a 24 hour in-home emergency response system (Lifeline) to call for help with a touch of a button. A central system monitors all units. There have been 293 lifeline units installed. Nail care is provided to persons unable to take care of their own toenails and fingernails and a companion service provides

personal care in the home to assist a caregiver with some of the custodial needs of a functionally impaired person.

**6. Transportation Services**

CHCD's Care-A-Van program offers five day a week, door to door paratransit service to those individuals who have disabilities which prevent them from using a fixed route bus service. CHCD also offers senior nutrition meal site transportation (from a grant offered by the Ventura County Transportation Commission) and intercity medical rides (from outside funding sources). For FY 1996-97 these transportation services provided 14,445 rides.

The CHCD receives revenue in the form of fees charged to clients for services offered under the various programs. Other revenue is derived from grants and donations received, the latter being restricted for specific use(s). A special fund, for example, is canvassed from private corporations, used to pay all or a part of services rendered to those seniors requiring financial assistance. The bulk of CHCD's revenue is generated from property tax revenues.

In order to provide these programs and services to its clients, the CHCD has acquired facilities in central Camarillo. These acquisitions are listed as follows:

| YEAR OF ACQUISITION | SQUARE FOOTAGE OF UNIT(S) | ACQUISITION COST |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1983                | 1,200                     | \$120,000        |
| 1984                | 1,800                     | \$120,000        |
| 1989                | 1,200                     | \$170,000        |
| 1995                | 2,400                     | \$304,500        |
| 1996                | 600                       | \$70,000         |
| 1997                | 600                       | \$76,000         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>       | <b>7,800</b>              | <b>\$860,500</b> |

Equipment totaling \$486,030 has also been acquired to augment the services and programs offered to the CHCD's clients.

For the FY ended June 30, 1997, the CHCD had assets totaling \$2,301,067 of which \$1,306,345 represented cash and investments. Its current liabilities total only \$106,232.

The CHCD's total operating revenue for FY 1996-97 was \$1,366,532, of which \$920,639 represented property tax revenue. Total expenses for program and administration were \$1,335,585.

The County Auditor-Controller's records, based on the FY 1996-97 tax rolls, indicates the owner of property situated within the City of Camarillo having an assessed valuation of \$200,000 paid \$35.07 to support the programs and services of the CHCD. The owner of like property living within the CHCD boundaries but outside the city limits paid \$17.68.

According to a market comparison report as of October 23, 1996, the population within the CHCD boundaries was 68,500, including the City of Camarillo and unincorporated areas. Of this, there are approximately 11,265 citizens aged 55 and over. Presently, according to population data, 1 of every 8 persons is over 65 years of age. It is anticipated that this growing senior population nationwide by the year 2010 will account for 1 out of 5 persons. CHCD retains staff trained in geriatric care to assist its clients. A licensed geriatrician provides care and advice.

The CHCD's records for the FY 1996-97 reflects there were over 14,000 unduplicated clients by program. In prior years, the CHCD did not keep records of unduplicated clients.

It was difficult to identify services and programs CHCD offers which may or may not be duplicated by other agencies or organizations. In the few cases where duplication occurred, e.g., blood pressure testing and flu shots, the demand supported the services offered. The City of Camarillo Dial-A-Ride program offers transportation to seniors for transporting them to and from a specific location. The CHCD's Care-A-Van program goes a step further as indicated under the services offered segment of this report.

The Ventura County Public Health Department (VCPHD) offers programs targeted to a specific population not having access to medical care and are considered to be at high risk and/or low income. However, the VCPHD does receive and make referrals to the CHCD as appropriate.

The CHCD interfaces with St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital in helping people deal with Parkinson's disease. In May 1998, Pleasant Valley Hospital will be using Federal Emergency Management Agency funds for major earthquake repair work expected to last two years. This will necessitate the closing of all the hospital's meeting rooms used for doctors' meetings as well as hospice and Lamaze classes. CHCD will volunteer space to try to accommodate such meetings and classes.

CHCD has been identified by the police and fire departments as an emergency disaster center to accommodate the public in the event of a disaster.

CHCD will be bringing another new program to the community with the award-winning Raggedy Ann & Andy Companions Visiting Program. In collaboration with the Adventures in Caring Foundation of Santa Barbara, CHCD will make it possible for the Raggedy Companions program to be implemented in local skilled nursing facilities. They bring encouragement, hope and joy to those who might otherwise have no visitors. Corporate financing will be sought for this program.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The programs and services offered by CHCD are very good and provide the residents ample opportunities to monitor and maintain good health care standards.

The Board of Directors and staff are caring, thoughtful and attuned to the growing health care needs of the senior population.

Property acquisitions have increased over 40% during the last three years which indicates CHCD has expanded its programs and services to accommodate more clients. No long term capital outlay objectives seem to be identified.

Financial audits indicate CHCD is a well managed and financially sound public agency.

CHCD now receives over \$1 million annually in property tax revenues to support its programs/services, serving 20% of the population. It also receives private donations, grants and fees for services

Property owners within the CHCD boundaries are not fully cognizant of their annual tax contribution used to support CHCD.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- CHCD develop a strategic plan specifying long term capital objective(s) and goals.
- CHCD establish definitive guidelines in the accumulation and use of its cash reserve fund.
- To clarify conflicting data, CHCD should annually set forth in its publications the per capita tax contributions of the property owners.
- CHCD continue to reach out to a greater and more diversified segment of the population.

### **RESPONSE REQUIRED**

Camarillo Health Care District