Del Norte Healthcare District
Board of Directors Meeting

Agendized
Board Packet

Tuesday November 24, 2026

November
10/21/2026 – 11/18/2026

DATE	NAME	DESCRIPTION	CK#	AMOUNT
10/20	Peggy Thomas	D/V/RX reimbursement	11277	22.90
10/21	City of CC	Inv. 7166686, 7166681	11278	3,179.00
10/21	Void		11279	VOID
10/21	City of CC	Inv. 7166687, 7166682	11280	2,025.00
10/21	City of CC	Inv. 7166685	11281	3,800.00
10/21	City of CC	Inv. 7166683	11282	4,000.00
10/21	CCWD	550 location & garden	11283	620.32
10/21	DNATL CFC	Inv. 24-5941-07	11284	19,840.00
10/26	Blue Star Gas	Inv. 1236453	EFT	2,096.71
10/26	CCWD	510 location	11285	108.41
10/26	T Mobile	9/18/26-10/17/26	11286	103.30
10/28	Edward Jones	SEP IRA Oct. contribution	11287	457.50
10/30	Doris Hendricks	October Payroll	EFT	1597.75
10/30	US Treasury	Oct. Payroll taxes	EFT	372.24
11/3	Katie Wheeler	Nov. bookkeeping services	EFT	200.00
11/3	Anna Porter	Blueberry legacy	11288	1,500.00
11/3	Wen-Cor	October service	11289	300.00
11/3	CalPers	November premium	EFT	3,654.37
11/9	Peggy Thomas	D/V/RX reimbursement	11290	31.50
11/10	Charter	November	EFT	193.19
11/10	CSDA	2027 annual membership	11291	3,814.00
11/12	McMillan & Mayle	October service	11292	1,020.00
11/12	Void		11293	VOID
11/16	DNSWMA	Sharps Inv. 2453	11294	75.00
11/16	Pacific Power	550 location	11295	3,447.59
11/16	Pacific Power	510 location	11296	793.95
Total				53,252.73

Del Norte Healthcare District
Financial Report
October 31, 2026

ACCOUNT	October 1, 2026 Bk./Inv. Acct. Bal.	Note Payable	October 31, 2026 Bk/Inv. Acct. Bal
LAIF (Investment Account)	4,325,495.07		4,325,495.07
Tri Counties - Bus Chking. Acct.	62,555.23		33,953.26
Tri Counties - Money Mkt (holding) Acct.	104,387.25		104,388.11
Tri Counties- W.C. USDA Auto Pay	0.00	closed acct.	0.00
TOTAL BK./INV. ACCT BALANCES	**4,492,437.55**	**0.00**	**4,463,836.44**

BUDGET CATEGORY INCOME	Anticipated Income	Income Received To Date	Remaining/(Surplus) Anticipated Income
Interest LAIF & bank Accts	140,000.00	83,632.97	56,367.03
Tax Receipts	765,000.00	109,137.93	655,862.07
Rent (Open Door $ 10250.00)	123,000.00	41,000.00	82,000.00
510 DNTAL 3000.00 per month	50,000.00	15,000.00	35,000.00
Utility Reimbursement 80%	82,000.00	11,643.05	70,356.95
Utility Reimbursement 100% DNATL	10,000.00	3,818.86	6,181.14
Insurance Reimbursement Pers-D/V/RX	1,000.00	600.00	400.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Sub-Total	**1,172,000.00**	**264,832.81**	**907,167.19**
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	**1,172,000.00**	**264,832.81**	**907,167.19**

EXPENDITURES	Annual Budget	Paid to Date	Budget Amt. Available
Personnel Expenses			
Payroll	24,000.00	6,320.02	17,679.98
General Benefits/SSI/EDD/WC	14,000.00	3,270.57	10,729.43
Cal Pers	50,000.00	15,316.18	34,683.82
Dental, Vision, RX	30,000.00	2,186.39	26,778.61
Past Board Health Benefits	15,000.00	2,215.32	13,819.68
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	**133,000.00**	**29,308.48**	**103,691.52**
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Pacific Power	50,000.00	15,821.50	34,178.50
Blue Star Gas	32,500.00	5,025.64	27,474.36
Crescent City W & S	21,000.00	4,302.11	16,697.89
Telephone & Internet	7,000.00	2,139.60	4,860.40
Office Supplies and Expenses	5,000.00	314.48	4,685.52
Training & Education	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Memberships	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
TOTAL UTILITIES AND OFFICE EXPENSE	**123,000.00**	**27,603.33**	**95,396.67**
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
Legal	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Accounting	20,000.00	800.00	19,200.00
Election Expense	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Insurance	34,000.00	32,761.95	1,238.05
Other Professional	5,000.00	1,028.60	3,971.40
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE	**79,000.00**	**34,590.55**	**44,409.45**

DEL NORTE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT PAGE 2

Materials & Supplies	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Grounds Keeping	15,000.00	4,280.00	10,720.00
Maintenance Services	25,000.00	6,379.97	18,620.03
TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE	**50,000.00**	**10,659.97**	**39,340.03**
CONTRIBUTIONS			
High School Scholarship ($500.00 x 4)	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
CR Nursing Scholarship	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Grad Night Safety Program	500.00	0.00	500.00
Sharps Containers	500.00	150.00	350.00
Food Hub Operations	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Non-Emergency Transport	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Local Medical Transportation	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Gateway Education	55,370.00	0.00	55,370.00
Swim Lessons	30,500.00	5,255.00	25,245.00
Senior Swim Passes	48,000.00	15,600.00	32,400.00
Public Swim Project	13,000.00	3,825.00	9,175.00
Recruitment & Retention	175,000.00	0.00	175,000.00
Blueberry Legacy	4,000.00	800.74	3,199.26
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	**373,870.00**	**35,630.74**	**338,239.26**

BUILDING REPAIRS			
510 E. Washington	20,000.00	1,956.40	18,043.60
Open Door	40,000.00	14,001.83	25,998.17
TOTAL REPAIRS	**60,000.00**	**15,958.23**	**44,041.77**

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**818,870.00**	**153,751.30**	**665,118.70**

CAPITAL EXPENSES			
Fixed Assets	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENSES	**818,870.00**	**153,751.30**	**665,118.70**
CONTINGENCY FUND	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**818,870.00**	**153,751.30**	**665,118.70**

TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME	**1,172,000.00**
MINUS OPERATING EXPENDUTURES	**818,870.00**
SURPLUS	**353,130.00**

RESERVE FUNDS COMMITTED PROJECTS

LAIF FUNDS	4,000,000.00		
Unfunded OPEB	25,800.00		
CR Nursing Equipment	1,000,000.00		
Food Hub Building	2,000,000.00	61,852.50	1,938,147.50
Kid Town resurfacing	500,000.00		
Million Dollar Mission	350,000.00		
REMAINING BALANCE RESERVE	124,200.00		

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Del Norte Healthcare District
October 27, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL :** Directors Sperling, Mason, Vice Chair Babich and Chair Caldwell all present. Director Pearcey 5 minutes late.

   Chair Caldwell: So first we're going to have an urgency item for the agenda regarding 7 C 1. The Community Food Council and we are going to do it at the end of our meeting. We will have a closed session to discuss it.

   Director Mason made a motion to discuss prices and terms of purchase for real property transaction in a closed session. Director Sperling seconded the motion.
   Motion passed 4 – 0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: Valerie Starkey with the Del Norte Board of Supervisors: I wanted to let the board know that last weekend we had Senior Summit. I wanted to thank Dr. Caldwell for his generosity for the donation for the event. But I also wanted to just let you know that there is a need for the seniors to know exactly what's available for them in the community. We had over 20 vendors, we had probably 200 participants that came and wandered through to see what was available. I just hope that we can continue this on for the future, because I think it's valuable, especially as our population continues to age.

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

   a. Ratification of invoices paid from 9/17/2026 – 10/21/2026
   b. Approval of financial report for September 2026.

   Vice Chair Babich made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Pearcey seconded the motion.
   Motion passed 5 – 0.

5. REVIEW/POSSIBLE REVISION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, MEETING.

Director Sperling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Vice Chair Babich seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Open Door: Shauna Burdick, informed the board that she has accepted the administrative director's position with Open Door. Anew physician has been hired and starts in November. Open Door has expanded the insurance they accept including Blue Shield, Cigna and Medicare.

b. Sutter Coast Hospital: Mike Lane, reported that planned projects including the Washinton Plaza expansion for urgent care, primary care, wound care, a draw station and rehabilitation evaluation will start at the end of the year. They are also working on a laboratory expansion and an emergency department fast track. The hospital received another Leapfrog A grade and is awaiting state approval to begin seeing patients in the IMPACT unit. They are looking at a possible workforce housing described as a 40-unit project behind the hospital, and a letter of support was requested. There was also discussion regarding support services space, potential cardiology and pulmonology expansion, increased staffing and incoming residents and physicians.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE: (Vice Chair/Treasurer Babich & Chair Caldwell)

B. COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE: (Director Pearcey & Vice Chair Babich).

C. HEALTHCARE EXPANSION:

1. Community Food Council: (Vice Chair Babich & Chair Caldwell)

   a. Consideration and possible adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding for the possible long term lease of land for the Building by the lessee of a facility to be used for the central Distribution of healthy fresh foods to Del Norte's citizenry.

   This item was moved to closed session.

There was a brief update from Andrea Lanctot that they now have cold storage, an electric van, a refrigerated trailer and are delivering harvest boxes and school district produce distribution using local and Humboldt County food.

2. Recruitment and Retention: (Director Pearcey & Chair Caldwell)

I am still looking for someone to administer the project. I will be checking with the county public health department.

3. Mental/Public Health Updates (Janel Obenchain)

Janel reported participation in the senior summit and described the event as an effective way to reach older adults with preparedness and resource information.

D. HEALTH PROMOTION:

1. Swimming Programs:

Kelly Feola: The pool will close in early November for scoreboard installation, repairs, ADA improvements, shower updates and new lane lines. A new aquatic supervisor, Joe Norris, was introduced. There was a discussion regarding the high demand for senior passes and the possibility of increasing those passes.

2. Non-emergency Transport/Local Medical Transport:

Tonya Pearcey: I noticed that the non-emergency transportation information was not being recognized in local clinics and doctors' offices and suggested additional outreach.

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
All matters listed under the report of the Executive Secretary will be acted on as one motion unless further discussion or action is to be taken on a specific item.

Parking lot needs re-striped, and the executive secretary to get quotes. Sidewalks need cleaned from bird residue and a discussion regarding keypad locks for the lobby restrooms.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Follow up discussion with Detective Mello and Mike Lane from Sutter Coast Hospital regarding the compliance and Sexual Assault Response Team Protocols.

Chair Caldwell: For a quick review of where we are now, this issue has been going on since July. And it came to our attention as a Healthcare District Board that there were some issues with rape exams being done in the emergency room. And it came to this board because we do have oversight for all things health related in the county. Now we don't really have any power, but we do have a lot of responsibility, and so, in that vein, we said yes. There is already a committee meeting to work on these problems. Our job was to facilitate it, coordinate it, and make sure that the meetings were happening and were progressing. We are not involved in the discussions. We are not litigating any of it in this meeting or in this forum, our job is to make sure that the committee is making progress. All indications are that they are because these are all relevant and difficult issues. Unfortunately in this county, when it comes to child abuse and domestic abuse, were number one. And so we really need this type of action, getting all the community working together to work on these problems. And the other unique part about it also is that at least with these cases the disease vector is the perpetrator, and like in everything with medicine, we want to eliminate the disease vector. So it's so important for the victim to see justice done for their healing, but we all know that these perpetrators, if left out there in the community, are almost always going to strike again. So we need it for our community health to get these people off the streets and much of the evidence collecting goes on in the emergency room.

Detective Mello: Yes, all parties have provided their changes to the draft MOU, so we're just working out very fine details at this point.

Chair Caldwell: OK, and Mr. Lane.

Mike Lane Sutter Coast Hospital: Yes, I totally agree with that. We met in September for the first meeting, we just met last week, we went through the red lines of our memorandum of understanding or MOU. And we just provided that to the team, and so we'll go through that as the officer said and make sure that everything is good. We don't want to have problems in the future, that's for sure. And then we're going to have another meeting in a couple of weeks and a couple of weeks after that, so we're going to work this out.

Chair Caldwell: Just prior to this meeting Mr. Lane sent a letter which was very positive about working together on these things, and all the issues where Sutter is already working closely with the community.

Director Mason: I'm loving everything. I had a conversation with Doctor Caldwell earlier about our being first and second place for domestic violence and sexual abuse in the state. And yeah, that definitely impacts public health which falls squarely under our responsibility to the community to collaborate solutions to get us out of first place and get us out of second place. And it's more that just the sheriff's department, it's much more than any of the other players by themselves, it's a community wide issue. It's a very serious community wide issue to be the worst in the state. Of all the counties, our rates per capita are the worst. We joke about it, saying we're in first place, but we're dead last when it comes to safety for the most vulnerable in our community. If it were staff and mersa or covid there would be resources to do something about it. But it's less damaging to the patients than those diseases, and it's just as important that we all get tother and try and find a solution. I am glad that we have members of the board of supervisors here tonight from two by two. This is something that goes far beyond the memo and all that. We've got to find a way to get ahead of it, prevention, I don't know if it's parenting classes for people that are careless with their children. I don't know what the specific injuries are. There has to be a solution, right? So, if you have parents and they care about their children you teach them how to be careful, right? I you have people that are in need of psychiatric counseling, psychiatric counseling, right? If you can identify what the main cause is. I'm a big believer in the biggest bang for the buck, so rather focus on the micro problem, step back and look at the whole forest. What can we do that'll have the biggest impact and bring those numbers down. So, that's something I'd like to see going forward as a separate co-issue. We can work on that, and this board has the ability to facilitate, coordinate, and in some cases provide funding. I'm optimistic that now that it's come to our attention, we can focus a little bit more on it and try and get us some better numbers.

Chair Caldwell: So we'll put this on the agenda again and get a report next month.

Mike Lane: I believe I will not be here next month.

Chair Caldwell: Is there any public comment?

b. Follow up regarding the Del Norte Healthcare District website.

The executive secretary reported that corrections were made to the main page, including mission and vision statements. Working with IT to check out any other problems.

10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

11. **INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANY CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:** Nothing at this time.

13. **ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION:**

    a. Discussion with legal counsel regarding prices and terms of purchase for real property transaction.

    Board adjourned the closed session at 6:29 p.m. and returned to open session at 6:57.

14. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND REPORT OF ANY ACTION:**

Director Pearcey made a motion to approve the presented contracts, documents, and resolutions tied to the Food Hub project. Director Sperling seconded the motion.
Roll Call vote:
Director Sperling – yes
Director Pearcey – yes
Director Mason – yes
Vice Chair Babich – Recused
Chair Caldwell – yes
Motion passed 4 - 0

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Minutes approved by:

Doris Hendricks, Executive Secretary Dave Mason, Board Secretary

Del Norte Healthcare District 6a.1.

From: Shauna Burdick <sburdick@opendoorhealth.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 4:29 PM
To: Del Norte Healthcare District
Subject: Re: Quotes for Security

Hi Doris,

I have confirmed with Ramon that he would like to adjust his schedule to 6:00 AM–3:00 PM.

The security company has provided us with two coverage options:

Option 1: Evening Coverage

- Monday–Friday: 3:00 PM–11:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:30 AM–2:00 PM
- Hourly rate: $29.95

Option 2: Evening and Overnight Coverage

- Monday–Friday: 3:00 PM–6:00 AM the following morning
- Saturday: 9:30 AM–2:00 PM
- Hourly rate: $28.95

We are interested in exploring the possibility of expanding security coverage to provide additional protection for our staff, patients, and facility.

I would appreciate knowing what level of support the Healthcare District may be able to provide toward the cost of security services. Understanding what funding or cost-sharing might be available will help us determine which option is feasible and best meets our safety needs.

Thank you for your continued partnership. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Shauna Burdick, MSN, RN | Manager of Clinical Services & Interim Administrative Director
Open Door Community Health Centers
Del Norte Community Health Center
550 E. Washington Blvd.
Crescent City, CA 95531
Office Tel: (707) 465- 6925 ext. 6515
Cell: 707-298-8176

COMMAND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES INC.

"Be Aware – Be Secure"

PPO 122633

The World Is Getting Smaller - The Danger Is Getting Greater

Cost of Service

Description of Fixed Price Services

Command International Security Services Inc. shall provide all management, training (including OJT), supervision, manpower, material, supplies, and equipment (except as otherwise noted), and shall plan, schedule, coordinate and assure effective performance of all services described herein. The following price includes Federal and State taxes, unemployment and workers compensation, liability insurances, overtime, training, turnover costs, recruiting, criminal records checks, drug testing, uniforms (blazers for desk clerks and full uniform for security officers), personnel costs, as well as other management and supervision costs.

Proposed Price

Date: 10-26-2026

Company Name: **Del Norte Community Health Center**

Address: **550 E. Washington Blvd., Crescent City, CA 95531**

Contact: **Shauna Burdick**

Phone No: **707-298-8176** Email: **sburdick@opendoorhealth.com**

Project Location: **550 E. Washington Blvd., Crescent City, CA 95531**

Trade: **SITE SECURITY**

	Time In	Time Out	Total Hours per day
Monday	15:00 Hrs.	06:30 Hrs.	15:30 Hrs.
Tuesday	15:00 Hrs.	06:30 Hrs.	15:30 Hrs.
Wednesday	15:00 Hrs.	06:30 Hrs.	15:30 Hrs.
Thursday	15:00 Hrs.	06:30 Hrs.	15:30 Hrs.
Friday	15:00 Hrs.	06:30 Hrs.	15:30 Hrs.
Saturday	09:30 Hrs.	14:00 Hrs.	04:30 Hrs.
		Total Weekly Hours:	**82:00 hrs.**

No. of Security Guard	Regular Rate/hour	Overtime Rate/hour	Holiday Rate/hour
01	**$28.95**	$00	**$43.50**

Note: Hours mentioned above are requested, any changes must be made in writing.
(Prices may be subject to change according to minimum wage hike!)

Unarmed Standing Guard: Command International Security proposes providing a Uniformed Private Unarmed Security Officer during the hours required. Security officers will be responsible for monitoring the job site, patrolling, maintaining necessary paperwork, signing after-hour workers out of the property and patrol within the facility periodically and follow assigned post orders.

Please note: Holidays recognized by Command International Security Services are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, President's Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

6819 Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 312, Van Nuys, CA 91405.
Toll Free: +1 (877) 512-6662, Fax: +1 (818) 827-3391. www.commandinternational.com

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Proposed Price

Date: 10-26-2026

Company Name: **Del Norte Community Health Center**

Address: **550 E. Washington Blvd., Crescent City, CA 95531**

Contact: **Shauna Burdick**

Phone No: **707-298-8176** Email: **sburdick@opendoorhealth.com**

Project Location: **550 E. Washington Blvd., Crescent City, CA 95531**

Trade: **SITE SECURITY**

	Time In	Time Out	Total Hours per day
Monday	15:00 Hrs.	23:00 Hrs.	08:00 Hrs.
Tuesday	15:00 Hrs.	23:00 Hrs.	08:00 Hrs.
Wednesday	15:00 Hrs.	23:00 Hrs.	08:00 Hrs.
Thursday	15:00 Hrs.	23:00 Hrs.	08:00 Hrs.
Friday	15:00 Hrs.	23:00 Hrs.	08:00 Hrs.
Saturday	09:30 Hrs.	14:00 Hrs.	04:30 Hrs.
		Total Weekly Hours:	**44:30 hrs.**

No. of Security Guard	Regular Rate/hour	Overtime Rate/hour	Holiday Rate/hour
01	**$29.95**	$00	**$45**

Note: Hours mentioned above are requested, any changes must be made in writing.
(Prices may be subject to change according to minimum wage hike!)

Unarmed Standing Guard: Command International Security proposes providing a Uniformed Private Unarmed Security Officer during the hours required. Security officers will be responsible for monitoring the job site, patrolling, maintaining necessary paperwork, signing after-hour workers out of the property and patrol within the facility periodically and follow assigned post orders.

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6819 Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 312, Van Nuys, CA 91405.
Toll Free: +1 (877) 512-6662, Fax: +1 (818) 827-3391. www.commandinternational.com

Secretary Report **November 2026**

I contacted Neal Goodman with NGI Lighting regarding three of the parking lot lights that were not working. These are the lights that were recently replaced with new LEDs. There is also an exterior building light on the 510 location that is not working. He will be out to fix and the lights.

I also contacted him about replacing three light fixtures at the two main entrances to the Open Door building. The upgraded lights on the 510 building are much brighter and seem to be deterring people from hanging out there at night. I received a quote and it was ok'd by Chair Caldwell.

I have been in contact with Dwayne Lemos from Open Door regarding electronic key-code locks for the lobby restrooms. He recommended a lock that has been used at other locations. I sent this to Chair Caldwell and Board Secretary Mason to review and get their opinions on. They agreed with Dwayne and I will get them ordered.

Dwayne also contacted me regarding adding a kiosk in the garden area. They will also be doing some minor construction in the dental department due to a grant that they received to update equipment.

Oscar power washed the sidewalk on the north side of the building. The pigeons are continuing to make a mess. We need to find a solution for this.

I have been working on getting quotes for the parking lot striping. I have received two and am waiting on the third one. I will put them on the December agenda when I have received them all.

10a

Del Norte Healthcare District

From: Amanda LeBlanc <amanda@ncrct.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 8:21 PM
To: Del Norte Healthcare District
Subject: Forensic Services Center funding inquiry
Attachments: Healthcare District project information and funding request.docx

Hello Healthcare District-

Thank you for allowing me to speak about the collaborative work to prevent and intervene in child abuse, sexualized violence, domestic violence, and strangulation. Attached you will find a request for funding for the construction of the center and ongoing operational support.

I am happy to discuss the program in detail and answer any questions with the Board or the members individually.

The attached ask is for the entire project; I am unsure of the funds available and would be grateful for any support available.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Amanda

Amanda LeBlanc (she/her/hers)
North Coast Rape Crisis Team
Executive Director/Sexual Assault Counselor
Office: (707) 443-2737 | Work Cell: (707) 296-6033
Humboldt hotline: (707) 445-2881 | Del Norte: (707) 465-28

Del Norte Forensic Services Program: A community-based intervention model

The North Coast Rape Crisis Team, Crescent City Police Department, Del Norte County Sherrif, District Attorney's office, Yurok Tribal Police, Tolowa De-Nai Victim Services and other multi-disciplinary partners are committed to constructing and sustaining a community-based forensic services center in Del Norte County.

This center, located in the North Coast Rape Crisis Team's office in Crescent City, will house the Safe Haven Intervention Program (SHIP) and the Forensic Medical Center. These co-located services will ensure that survivors and their families are welcomed warmly, have an Advocate beside them through disclosures of abuse and assault, and are immediately offered basic needs assistance, emergency housing and safety planning.

Why is this important?

- Del Norte County leads the state in:
  - Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault rates per capita
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)
- Del Norte County is 2nd in the state for child abuse referrals

What are forensic services?

Forensic Interviewing, known as the Safe Haven Intervention Program (SHIP):
A best practice interview to ensure children only have to tell the truth of their abuse once. Children who are survivors of all types of abuse and those who witness violence should be interviewed in this manner. Law Enforcement, District Attorney, Child Protective Services (tribal and County) and other stakeholders in the case observe the interview from another room. The observation allows each of the entities to create a safety plan for the child/family, establish the facts of a criminal case and identify other children or adults who may need to be interviewed.

- Del Norte County has 4 law-enforcement forensic interviewers, including a bi-lingual Spanish speaking Deputy.
- From 2024-2026, over 40 forensic interviews have been conducted (36 children ages 3-17, 4 Developmentally Delayed adults).

The results of this program are:

- ✓ Triple the number of child sexual abuse cases prosecuted by the District Attorney's office
- ✓ $60,000.00 contributed to the basic needs assistance (gas, food, utility bills, rental assistance, etc) of families affected by abuse/assault.
- ✓ 15 teens (13-17) connected with an Advocate weekly to establish a safe, confidential adult to support their healing.

Forensic Medicine:

Evidence collection for prosecution of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, domestic violence and strangulation. Photographs and a narrative recounting within 5 days of the incident and multiple follow-ups with a certified Registered Nurse is essential to the physical healing of the body, and can assuage fears of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy or other consequences of the assault.

- Research offers that survivors who engage with medical personnel and an Advocate are more likely to cooperate with law enforcement for the criminal case, are connected to mental health and other services in a shorter amount of time and are 10 times more likely to believe that the assault was not their fault and engage in ongoing healing services.

There have been long periods where Del Norte County did not have any forensic medical services; survivors were put in the back of a police car, driven to Humboldt for an exam and then driven back by law enforcement.

- This is no longer the case; 4 nurses are certified for adolescent/adult and strangulation exams; 2 are certified in pediatric exams.
- Since 2023, over 30 exams have been completed for survivors in our community for sexual abuse and assault.

In a review of police reports, the **District Attorney's office believes that 25 people in 2025 and over 30 people in the first nine months of 2026 would have benefited from a forensic exam to document injuries from domestic violence and/or strangulation.**

Why a community model?
The community-based model will allow for a safe, confidential space for survivors and families to catch their breath after violence occurs, create an immediate safety plan, provide emergency housing and basic needs assistance and document what occurred. There is a strong belief that prosecutions of domestic violence will increase with forensic documentation, and survivors will choose safety for longer periods of time.

The utilization of Sutter Coast Hospital as the site of forensic medical services has been an ongoing barrier for many survivors. We live in a small, intertwined community where confidentiality is difficult to achieve. Many family members of survivors and offenders work at the hospital and/or receive services there. This can cause safety concerns for survivors who want to report abuse from a loved one and mean invasive questions may be asked. The community-based model will allow for confidentiality and safety, while still allowing for evidence collection and medical intervention, when necessary.

Project Requests:
Phase 1: Construction
To build the interview room, observation room and forensic medical room as a permanent location for services, NCRCT needs to raise $110,000.00 for the initial construction, equipment and supplies. State and Federal grant funds are not feasible to be used for the project due to prevailing wage requirements.

Phase 2: General operating support

Forensic services as a program of NCRCT will need to be funded on an ongoing basis through varied funding streams; federal and state grant funds, private foundations and donors, as well as a possible fee for service model with partners, Crescent City and Del Norte County. At the current rate of direct services to survivors and families, emergency housing and basic needs assistance for families, coordination of County protocols, best-practice procedures and trainings and financial and programmatic oversight, NCRCT estimates the ongoing costs will be +/- $350,000.00 per year. A grant from the Office of Violence Against Women will ensure funding for the Forensic Services Coordinator and on-call stipends for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners until September 2027.

NCRCT is actively working to fund the program, completing applications for 4.5 million dollars in varied fund sources for the community-based model and forensic services. Grant funding is incredibly competitive in the current climate; our hope is to secure at least one 3-5 year grant to institutionalize these programs for Del Norte County.