

SWT Feb 1, 2025, as printed

What's Up With the Clinic, Part IV

David Farris MD, Board Chair

Last month I told of a “unicorn” PA who was very interested in taking up practice at our clinic. We were hopeful. His interest remains strong—he is joining our new Board of Advisors—but unfortunately the move would undermine his family. We are disappointed, far from broken, but this does bring into sharp relief the difficulty of recruitment in a national shortage of primary care providers. Still, South County is an easy sell to a certain subset of people (as you well know.) We have avenues. We are sharpening our strategies. Interest will pick up.

For anyone yet wondering why renewal of the past option levy will be on the ballot again this, my past writing about the finances can be found on the clinic website, deschutesrimhealthclinic.org. (Short form: quality care will require broader funding.) We’ve heard a number of comments on why the levy failed last November, but we need to know as specifically as possible what we can do not only to earn your trust for a YES vote, but what you need most urgently at the clinic—what are your priorities? To that end, we have written a truly brief questionnaire seeking your thoughts. It will be available soon at common public places, but also downloadable from our website. Please find or print a copy, scribble something quick, or take it home and write us a letter. We Board members are also available for any earful—written, emailed, phoned in, or said on the street. We love hearing from supporters, (thank you!) but we need to hear from non-supporters, too. I am personally available to listen and learn at 503-780-0987 or rdcfarris@comcast.net.

We also need volunteers. We could use community help with everything from grounds maintenance to IT and web design to accounting to election campaigning and more. The clinic will succeed only with broad understanding and support. If you have a few hours to donate, whatever your skillset, please contact Lindsay at the clinic or me at the address above.

Dollars help, too. A letter seeking support was sent recently. Thank you to those who responded so generously! The clinic’s foundation is a 501(c)3 charity, meaning whatever you can give is tax deductible. If so inclined, how to donate is detailed on our Foundation website at deschutesrimclinicfoundation.org. It has been suggested that supporters of the clinic’s future might send in the amount they saved on property taxes last November due to the option levy’s non-renewal. That will show your support, help patients, AND be tax deductible.

In-kind donations are generally tax deductible too, at market value. First up: Rob and Susie Miles have pledged nights at the Imperial Inn when job candidates come to visit. The room rate is the deductible. (As always, please consult your tax advisor.)

Finally, please see the attached statement from a returning Board Member, Melissa Napoli, speaking to her role and her commitment to helping our clinic.

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RDCFarris@comcast.net

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