

July 8, 2020

Dear BOS,

I want to know why our public health officer is in San Diego instead of on duty here in Mendocino County. As a taxpayer I have to demand that County officials live and work in-county, not in some remote part of the state 600 miles away. Dr. Doohan reports to us weekly via zoom, using expressions like "We here in Mendocino have to do better..." and so forth, pretending like she's in-county, when by now everybody knows she is not. I was informed by the Call Center this morning that the State appointed another interim public health officer to assist our absent Dr. Doohan. This person was apparently hired-on a week or two ago, but no announcement was made by the County. Until today. This is not transparency.

I further want to complain about the general incompetence and neglect in the county's reaction to this pandemic. The public health department issues its updates via Facebook, and a clunky website. Facebook is an untrustworthy app at best, that many people have refused to use, and many others have recently deleted. Having your primary information channel a Facebook page is not only unprofessional, it's irresponsible and negligent. If you look at every other county in Northern California - and I've looked at Humboldt, Del Norte, Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Lake - any County - will have separate links on their webpage with graphs, statistics, dashboard and data, all laid out very clearly and transparently. Meanwhile Mendocino has a dark, black, jumbled and inarticulate dashboard on Facebook, along with a seven line, thirty word paragraph for basic statistics that appears sporadically on their website. This is unacceptable.

Worse, the Public Health Department has so far misleadingly and falsely reported on at least two cases in this pandemic. Our county experienced its first death on July 1. State law requires a cause of death to be declared by the attending physician within 15 hours, yet our public health department not only failed to list this as a COVID death, it also, unbelievably, has this deceased man listed as "recovered." A visiting nurse who tested

positive in Fort Bragg but lives in Oregon was similarly wiped from the county's public records on Covid-19.

And again, I have to ask - where is the daily testing on the Coast? Fort Bragg did 200 tests in all of June. This county has run out of excuses for not getting even the bare minimum of tests needed on the Coast.

Finally, this board needs to order wastewater testing for the town of Mendocino, and for other unincorporated towns and communities in our County.

Respectfully,

David Gurney
Fort Bragg, CA