

TO: MCHCD Board

FROM: Susan Savage, Kathy Wiley

RE: GRI Health Care Workgroup

DATE: February 12, 2024

On February 12th, 2024, at 6:30 PM, Susan Savage, Kathy Wylie, James Katzel, MD, and Aviv K. from the Grass Roots Institute (GRI) discussed the challenges facing the healthcare system on the Mendocino coast. They explored current local healthcare delivery, particularly regarding family-centered care. James Katzel expressed a longing for improved obstetric services, and noted that despite the vibrant community with young families, the lack of accessible obstetric care poses a significant concern. Drawing from his experiences, he noted that in Canada, healthcare services are more affordable and comprehensive, suggesting a need for similar reforms locally. The discussion emphasized the importance of maximizing healthcare accessibility and quality for all residents, with a recognition that the current system falls short of meeting the needs of the many individuals. The group discussed a potential project identifying the existing health care support systems.