

Meeting with DMC regarding neighborhood "roamers"

Michael Pratt, Chair of CANA Nuisance Mitigation Committee

October 10, 2016

Meeting with Doctors Medical Center CEO, Warren Kirk

Issue:

The issue concerning pedestrian traffic through streets and alleys adjoining Doctors Medical Center was raised during the recent Neighborhood meeting held at the Enslin Park Boy Scout Building. That complaint was relayed to Mr. Kirk, who suggested we meet to discuss the situation. A meeting was held at Doctors Medical Center on October 7th that included Warren Kirk, CEO, Doctors Medical Center, Steven Rank, Rank Investigations, Twainhart Hill, CANA Steering Team Co-Leader and Michael Pratt, Neighborhood Nuisance Mitigation Committee Chair.

Discussion:

Several neighbors just South of DMC have observed increased pedestrian traffic through their neighborhood. Some still had hospital wrist bands and a few were wearing hospital gowns. The City of Modesto Police and other neighbors believe a couple things may be contributing to the problem:

After treatment/observation, some of the 5150 Mental Patients are being released without transportation "back" to where they were picked up; causing them to roam the area on their way to public transportation or our parks. Mr. Kirk was well aware of the situation. He mentioned he has recently created new policies that will require his medical and security staff to closely monitor patients under the care of the facility. This will help mitigate the folks going outside to smoke, then wandering off, or people bolting before they are properly evaluated. They will also continue to monitor patients' family and friends that are "hanging around" the facility.

We all agreed there is still work required to solve the "how did they end up there in the first place" issue that will require discussions with City and County Agencies, who share in the way in which the 5150's are handled. Note: We are meeting with Dick Monteith, County Supervisor and others to discuss the issue.

We understand prescriptions written at the ER may be being processed primarily at the Walgreens on McHenry. That particular Walgreens has been identified as a "hot spot" for vagrancy and illegal activity by the Modesto Police. Mr. Kirk mentioned they are aware of most of the "regulars" that may be abusing the system regarding prescriptions. He is pretty confident DMC is not contributing in a great degree, to the problem at Walgreens.

Warren mentioned his willingness to be an active participant with developing a strategy for ways CANA can work with DMC to enhance the quality of life in our unique neighborhood. We appreciate him reaching out to us.

Michael Pratt