

From: jack burrows
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2008 5:45 AM
To: CPR Receiver
Subject: Federal Reciever's Draft Plan

The Association of California Health Care Districts (ACHD), representing 75 public Health Care Districts and 45 Health Care District Hospitals, and two long term care facilities applauds the Mission and 4 of the 5 Goals as defined in the March 11, 2008 Plan and ACHD is committed to assist the Receiver in achieving these goals. However, Goal 5 is a goal, as currently defined, that ACHD can not support.

Goal 5 in addition to being very costly for the state tax payers will also destroy access to health care in rural California by closing a number of Hospitals. A study performed in 2002 regarding the cost of potentially closing a small hospital in the town of Tehachapi found that in addition to the town not having access to health care the closure would result in the town losing \$70,000,000.00 plus.

By creating super health care facilities and hiring large numbers of Physicians and other health care professionals at salaries and benefits far in excess of what rural hospitals are currently able to pay the possibility of recruiting these professionals to these hospitals will be impossible. Without the appropriate Physicians and other health care professionals people living in these rural communities will be forced to seek health care elsewhere seriously affecting accessibility resulting in the closure of the hospitals.

The rural hospitals of California are the true safety net hospitals of California providing health care to not only their population but also to the migrant farm workers, lumber industry and tourist.

ACHD would like to work with the Receiver to determine if there is anything that can be done that will result in the Mission being accomplished and Goals 1 through 4 being achieved without destroying rural health care as we know it today.

Jack Burrows
Director of Executive Services
Association of California Health Care Districts