



Mason Health

Mason General Hospital • Mason Clinic

October 20, 2020

To the League of Women Voters,

Thank you for your letter of September 9 to the Board of Hospital Commissioners regarding environmental sustainability and climate change. We acknowledge that climate change is an issue of great significance, and I appreciate the League of Women Voters engagement in this important concern.

I also appreciate that you reviewed our 2020-2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The ranking model you noted was developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and we used it to organize our work in the CHNA. From this, seven community priorities were identified with the overarching goal of improving community health. As you pointed out, one of those priorities is a "Clean and Healthy Environment." The action plan in the CHNA focuses on the social environment as it relates to youth and families, rather than on the physical or natural environment. We chose this focus because we believe it is how Mason Health can best support a tangible outcome for the community. While focusing our plan is essential, it doesn't diminish our concern for the overall quality of the environment.

That is why as an organization we are seeking to operate in ways that more fully consider sustainability and environmental issues. We believe that when tied to business decisions and mission-driven goals, such efforts have benefits for the financial bottom line, patient satisfaction and well-being, employee engagement, and the community we serve.

In support of this, we recently joined "Practice Greenhealth." This group is the leading membership and networking organization for sustainable health care, delivering environmental solutions to hospitals and health systems across the United States and in Canada. Practice Greenhealth's mission is to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint and becomes an anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

Using the learnings and resources of this network will help us make continuous improvement in our sustainability efforts. We see our involvement with Practice Greenhealth as the next step in the Mason Health journey that started with our founding in 1968. We have a long-standing culture and tradition of exercising environmental stewardship and carefully managing our resources, an overview of which I'm including along with this letter. Of course, there is always more to do. In the near term, our overriding priority is navigating the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 infections. We look

forward to the day, hopefully soon, in which we can more fully turn attention to other important community needs and continued operational improvements.

Thank you for bringing this discussion forward. We care deeply about serving our patients and community and appreciate the strong relationships and open communications that have been built over the years. Do keep us apprised of your efforts as we find such input very valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric C. Moll', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric C. Moll
Mason Health CEO and Superintendent of Public Hospital District No. 1 of Mason
County

CC: Commissioners Don Wilson, Gayle Weston and Scott Hilburn

Mason Health: Sustainability Actions and Accomplishments

In addition to recently joining Practice Greenhealth, Mason Health has worked on, and implemented, a number of sustainability efforts, large and small, over the years. A sample includes:

- Being an active member of Stryker's Sustainability Solutions (SSS) program since 2007. Stryker is the leading provider of reprocessing and remanufacturing services for single-use medical devices. Reprocessing of single-use medical devices (SUDs) is the practice of inspecting, cleaning, function testing, sterilizing and packaging so that they can be clinically and safely used again during the provision of medical services to patients.
- Supporting Mason County's local Drug Take Back program, which offers a centralized location for community members to dispose of unwanted medications. This both removes unneeded medications from homes and ensures their appropriate disposal. This past summer, Mason Health also joined Med-Project, which is a state-wide medication education and disposal program. A Med-Project medication drop-box for patients and community members is now readily available within Mason General Hospital. This makes it very easy for patients and visitors to responsibly dispose of their medications.
- Our Culinary and Nutrition Services Department has taken a very positive and green forward-thinking approach to the food services division of the District. Below is a summary of the successes that we have achieved to date.
 - Switched all "to go" service-ware from plastic/Styrofoam to biodegradable corn and sugar cane products (forks, spoon, knives, cups, lids, boxes, bags, trays)
 - Now working in seasonal collaboration with local farms and the South Sound Fresh Food Hub
 - Switched 50% of our produce purchasing over to local farms (including all the salad on our salad bar)
 - Switched 30% of our meat purchasing over to local farms
 - Switched 20% of our dairy over to a local creamery
 - Switched all patient seafood over from farmed to wild caught
 - Upgraded quality of patient food by using local vegetables and meat
 - Now serving St. Andrews' locally produced granola to patients and patrons of our cafeteria
 - Proudly serving organic mushrooms from the Skokomish Ridge Mushroom co-op
 - Switched all paper products over to non-bleached biodegradable
 - Eliminated high fructose corn syrup from our kitchen

Our efforts continue as we seek to operate more sustainably and meet the needs of our patients and the broader community.