

going needs assessments and research, and will help us continue our annual prevention education in all of our local schools. Additionally, the funding will help our consortium implement strategies to reduce opioid and substance overdose death rates and hospitalizations for communities like Gualala, Point Arena and Manchester, where rates for these occurrences have been the highest per capita in Mendocino County between 2017-2019.

"MHA's Board of Directors, staff and affiliates feel incredibly fortunate to be the recipients of an additional 3-year grant from HRSA to further our work with our Rural Health Network. The first three years of funding (July 2017-June 2020) were spent creating and solidifying MHA's infrastructure and developing new programs that support the patients of our Network partners, with a goal of assisting and educating individuals to make successful lifestyle changes that are impactful over time. The second round of funding will help us expand free community-wide health screening options, expand the types of health education available throughout our service area and address access to medical care in a variety of capacities.

"I would like to thank and acknowledge our Rural Communities Opioid Response consortium partners for recognizing the issues relating to SUD/ODU in our communities and for making a commitment to doing better for, and providing more for, the residents of our community. Our consortium partners include Coast Life Support District (CLSD), Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS), Bright Heart Health, Mendocino County Public Health and the county-wide Safe Rx Coalition, and the Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network. I would also like to recognize the hard work and buy-in required on behalf of CLSD, RCMS and Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital to help ground MHA and make it a thriving organization that enriches the life of any individual who walks through our doors. We look forward to continued collaboration and work that results in optimal health and wellness for every resident that we serve," she concluded.

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