

From: [Kyra Kazantzis](#)
To: [Arenas, Sylvia](#); [Chavez, Cindy](#); [Supervisor.Lee](#); [Ellenberg, Supervisor](#); [Supervisor Simitian](#); [Lee, Otto](#); [Ellenberg, Susan](#); [Simitian, Joe](#); [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [Le, Nancy \(BOS\)](#); [Lin, Alexander](#); [Ho, Wendy](#); [Flores, Mayra](#); [Combellick, Kelsey M](#); [Jimenez, Yvonne](#); [McGarrity, Patrick](#); [Wilson, Matthew C](#); [Williams, James](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SVCN letter re Regional Center Medical service reduction
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 4:27:50 PM
Attachments: [Letter to SCC Board Re Regional Medical Center 2024.04.12.pdf](#)

Dear President Ellenberg, Vice President Lee, and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Please find attached a letter from SVCN regarding the proposed reduction of trauma and specialty services at Regional Medical Center.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. Please contact me with any questions.

In community,

Kyra Kazantzis | CEO

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Phone: (408) 605-6586 | Web: svcn.org | Twitter: [@SVCN](https://twitter.com/SVCN)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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April 12, 2024

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street – 10th Floor, East Wing
San José, California 95110
Sent via electronic mail

Re: Reduction of trauma services at Regional Medical Center

Dear President Ellenberg, Vice President Lee, and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I write to you on behalf of the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN), an alliance of community-based organizations working to advance the role, voice, and capacity of the nonprofit community in Santa Clara County so it can be a force for positive social change and support the creation of equitable, vibrant, and thriving communities.

As a nonprofit that serves hundreds of community-based organizations that in turn serve thousands of community members who would be impacted by the proposed reduction of trauma and specialty care services at Regional Medical Center of San José, we are extremely concerned.

In addition to the likely individual, community, and system impacts that such a reduction would have—as thoroughly documented in the Impact Assessment—we are especially concerned about the disparate impact it would have on communities that have been historically disenfranchised and continue to suffer health outcome disparities, largely working-class communities of color in East San José.

We call on the Board of Supervisors to do everything within its power to engage with HCA and applicable regulators to prevent this closure and, that failing, work with the community and partners to alleviate the likely harms.

We also publicly call on HCA to put patients over profits and to act in the best interests of the community by keeping the trauma and specialized services intact

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at Regional Medical Center. Closing these critical services essentially redlines healthcare in our county.

Lastly, it is important for the community most affected by a potential service reductions to be provided with full information about the reductions and their effects, in a context that is accessible for hard-working community members and their families. The County should host a public meeting near the hospital site where this information can be provided and the community can be heard, at a time when and location where it's more likely that community members could attend.

Thank you for your attention to our feedback.

In community,



Kyra Kazantzis, CEO

About SVCN

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) advances the role, voice, and capacity of the nonprofit community in Santa Clara County so it can be a force for positive social change and support the creation of equitable, vibrant, and thriving communities. SVCN has committed to be a change-agent and a model of possibility by centering racial justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion principles in everything SVCN does internally and externally. One of our strategic commitments is to support the nonprofit ecosystem by being a trusted source and hub of information, resources, and connection for nonprofits across Silicon Valley, that facilitates nonprofit collaboration and collective impact. We also leverage our power, positionality, and access, in order to partner with, amplify, and support community to influence decision-makers to change systems in ways that address the biggest challenges facing nonprofits and the communities they serve. SVCN's nonprofit membership is 170+ strong; we also offer Ally Membership to individuals, businesses, and foundations. To learn more about SVCN please visit www.svcn.org.

From: [Christina Turner](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - April 16, 2024 Agenda - Items 9 and 19
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 4:34:40 PM
Attachments: [Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors 4.16.24 Meeting - Regional Medical Center Service Reduction.pdf](#)
[Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors 4.16.24 Meeting - 911 Emergency Ambulance Services Contract Extension.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors,

Please find attached letters in response to April 16, 2024 Agenda items:

- #9 - Receive report from the Emergency Medical Services Agency relating to the reduction of trauma and specialty care services at Regional Medical Center of San Jose and provide input and direction relating to the Draft Impact Assessment.
- #19 - Approve Ninth Amendment to Agreement with Rural/Metro of California relating to providing 911 emergency paramedic and ambulance services, extending the agreement for an 18-month period through December 31, 2025, with three one-year extension options, that has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form and legality.

Thank you for the opportunity for the City of Morgan Hill to provide input.

Best regards,
Christina

CITY OF MORGAN HILL

Christina J. Turner, CPA
City Manager

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April 12, 2024

County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding
San Jose, CA 95110
BoardOperations@cob.sccgov.org

RE: April 16, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Item #9 – Regional Medical Center Specialty Care Services Reduction Impact Assessment

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The City of Morgan Hill would like to formally oppose the reduction of services at Regional Medical Center (RMC). The announcement of RMC reducing trauma and specialty care services poses significant risks to South County residents whose closest emergency rooms are situated 9 or 13 miles from Morgan Hill and the nearest trauma center is already 25 miles away. This situation is exacerbated by the delayed EMS response times our community is experiencing.

As indicated in the County's Impact Assessment, the City of Morgan Hill is deeply troubled by the potential ramifications of these reductions. The key issues that come to the forefront are:

- **Exacerbation of Healthcare Disparities:** Hospital reductions and closures have been shown to worsen healthcare disparities, particularly affecting seniors and low-income patients who rely on nearby hospitals for care. Increased distance to the closest hospital could lead to higher mortality rates from heart attacks and unintentional injuries, placing an additional burden on already vulnerable populations.
- **Impact on Follow-Up Care:** The closure of specialized hospital units not only disrupts acute care but also hampers follow-up care for patients with chronic conditions. Longer travel distances to healthcare providers may result in missed appointments, medication non-adherence, and delayed interventions, ultimately contributing to worsened health outcomes and increased healthcare costs.

Ultimately, the closure of specialty services at RMC not only challenges the immediate functionality of the EMS system but will also influence the long-term mortality and morbidity impacts on vulnerable populations. We are grateful to the County for the recent investment in Valley Health Center Morgan Hill and for the County's continued effort to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, expand access, and promote health equity within the community. The City of Morgan Hill stands ready to work with the County and other relevant parties to find sustainable solutions that prioritize the needs of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Turner
City Manager

From: [K'Ailsa Rowan](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [Chavez, Cindy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] San Jose Regional
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 5:05:27 PM

Dear County Supervisors,

I am writing to ask the board of supervisors to recommend **against** closing the trauma center at San Jose Regional Medical Center. Closing this trauma center would have a disproportionate effect on access to healthcare in the eastern side of San Jose, including a negative impact on many lower income people. It would cause a significant increase in patient transfers and delays in treatment as people try to access other trauma centers that are already overburdened.

The population of San Jose would not be well served by closing this trauma center.

Warmly,
Kaye-Ailsa Rowan
San Jose, CA
District 2, 95112

—
(K'Ailsa) Kaye-Ailsa Rowan | she/her/hers

From: [Steve Eckert](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [District1](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 9 - Public Comment Regarding Regional Medical Center Closure of Specialty Services
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 8:41:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Alum Rock Counseling Center, and the clients we serve, we urge you to find a way to avoid closure of the Regional Center Specialty Services.

- **Removal of critical services will negatively impact East San Jose and South County.** Regional Medical Center has been a critical lifeline for our East San Jose and South County residents – this closure and delayed access to receiving critical lifesaving care *will* lead to increased travel time and transportation barriers for patients and EMS, resulting in *delayed care* which will inevitably increase the likelihood of complications or death to trauma patients, including our most vulnerable youth, and critically ill community members.
- **Increase in health disparities to communities that are already disproportionately impacted by adverse health outcomes.** The systematic closure of health services at Regional Medical Center has already closed include pediatric and labor and delivery services, and now the future closure of life-saving trauma, stroke, and heart attack services will have devastating and disproportionate impacts on our most vulnerable communities that will further exacerbate existing healthcare services.

Thank you for your care and attention to this issue,

Steve Eckert, MSW
Chief Executive Officer
Alum Rock Counseling Center
1245 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95116
(he, him, his)

www.alumrockcc.org

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From: [jorge.mendoza](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [District1](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 9 – Regional Medical Center Specialty Care Services Reduction Impact Assessment
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024 6:49:10 PM

Good afternoon,

my name is Jorge Mendoza and I am a resident of Gilroy Ca. A family member of mine was attended at this hospital and so have a few of my friends for the easy access we have to this hospital. Removal of critical services will negatively impact East San Jose and South County. Regional Medical Center has been a critical lifeline for our East San Jose and South County residents – this closure and delayed access to receiving critical lifesaving care *will* lead to increased travel time and transportation barriers for patients and EMS, resulting in *delayed care* which will inevitably increase the likelihood of complications or death to trauma patients, including our most vulnerable youth, and critically ill community members.

[Enviado desde Yahoo Mail para iPhone](#)

From: [Dolores A](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [District1](#); [Chavez, Cindy](#); [Lee, Otto](#); [Ellenberg, Susan](#); [Supervisor Simitian](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 9, Board of Supervisors Meeting April 16,2024
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:54:02 AM

Dear Supervisor Ellenberg (D4), President, Santa Clara County's Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Arenas (D1). Supervisor Chavez (D2), Supervisor Lee (D4), and Supervisor Simitian (D5) :

My name is Dolores Alvarado and I am writing to you on behalf of the association of community health centers, Community Health Partnership. Our membership includes 10 primary care centers with 39 sites throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. I am also writing to you as a resident of District One. (Morgan Hill).

We are concerned about RMCs decision to remove services from their trauma center. The removal of critical services will negatively impact East San Jose and South County and will **increase** health disparities to communities that are already disproportionately impacted.

Regional Medical Center has been a critical lifeline for our East San Jose and South County residents. This closure and delayed access to receiving critical lifesaving care *will* lead to increased travel time and transportation barriers for patients and EMS, resulting in *delayed care* which will inevitably increase the likelihood of complications or death to trauma patients.

In 2017, my husband shattered his arm as a result of falling off a ladder. Fortunately, he was transported to Regional Medical Center where he had surgery, treatment, and follow-up. Upon arrival at the hospital, our family was treated with kindness, professionalism, and given relevant information. The surgeon spent time with us explaining the recommended course of the treatment and options to consider. Most importantly, my husband's arm was treated on a timely basis, avoided infection, salvaged, and is now stronger and healthier than ever.

In conclusion:

RMCs closure poses a serious threat to our healthcare system. No doubt, the closure will seriously impact Valley Medical Center's system and their patients, our community health centers' patients, and exacerbate already existing health disparities throughout the county. We have a strong relationship with Valley Medical Center and are here to support the BOS in keeping trauma services in East SJ.

Please feel free to include us in future community meetings. CHP and Community Health Centers have a strong presence in ESJ and have often worked with community groups to keep and enhance health care access.

Thank you.

[Dolores Alvarado](#) | Chief Executive Officer
408 N. Capitol Ave. San Jose, Ca 95133
Main Line: 408.556.6605| 408.579.6000

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Moorpark Office

Gordon N. Chan Community Services Center
2400 Moorpark Ave. Suite #300
San José, CA 95128

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Susan Ellenberg, President
and Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street
East Wing, 10th Floor
San José, CA 95110

Subject: BOS Agenda Item 9 – Regional Medical Center Specialty Care Services Reduction

Dear President Ellenberg and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), I am writing to voice our deep concern over the planned reduction of specialty care services at Regional Medical Center of San Jose (RMC). The implications of this action could have a significant negative impact on both the availability and accessibility of critical emergency services for heart attacks and strokes in the county's east side, exacerbating already significant health disparities and barriers to healthcare access in those communities. AACI is also concerned about the ripple effect this service reduction would have across the healthcare delivery system in the region, diverting patients who would have otherwise been seen at RMC to other trauma centers already struggling to keep up with the community's growing needs. As you review the draft impact assessment on today's agenda, we urge the Board of Supervisors and the County to do all it can, in partnership with community, to maintain critical emergency services.

In 2018, Sutter Health proposed closing its Alta Bates Campus in Berkeley, California by 2030. Among the many services it provided, the Alta Bates Campus has an emergency department that serviced high-need communities along the I-80 corridors in West Alameda and West Contra Costa Counties. As a then graduate student at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, I was a contributor to the Health Impact Assessment that determined the impact the closure would have on the community. Our research yielded alarming findings, many of which share similarities to the findings of the County impact assessment for RMC's service reduction. Both predict a significant reduction of access to urgent and emergency care for vulnerable populations including people with disabilities, the uninsured, people of color, pregnant women, and the unhoused. A regional reduction in emergency department capacity would also mean increased wait times, longer travel times to the next-closest trauma center, and overall reduced regional preparedness for future surge events such as pandemics and natural disasters.

As one of only three adult trauma centers in Santa Clara County, RMC is a key component to the region's emergency response infrastructure. And although RMC's emergency department will remain open, the elimination of its comprehensive stroke center would mean stroke patients presenting at RMC would need to be transported to other trauma centers, significantly increasing the time it would take to receive lifesaving medical interventions. We at AACI cannot stress enough the potential harm this could have on vulnerable and already underserved communities in East San Jose.

We thank the Board for its attention to this critical issue and urge you to leverage all of the County's resources and influence to maintain these lifesaving services.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Villaverde, MPH
Director of Advocacy

From: [Ranjani Chandramouli](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [District1](#); dolores@chpscc.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 9 – Public Comment Regarding Regional Medical Center Closure of Specialty Services
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:36:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
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Dear Board of Supervisors,

We, at Gardner Health Services Executive Leadership Team, believe Regional Medical Center has been a critical lifeline for our East San Jose and South County residents – this closure and delayed access to receiving critical lifesaving care will lead to increased travel time and transportation barriers for patients and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), resulting in *delayed care* which will inevitably increase the likelihood of complications or death to trauma patients, including our most vulnerable youth.

Regional Medical Center has already closed certain essential services. This closure will have an extremely devastating impact on our vulnerable population and create a huge health disparity in the service rendered to this population.

We are here as medical providers to enable our patients to seek critical services without which their lives can be seriously compromised and this can bear a very negative financial impact that will affect many organizations.

We, as medical professionals are here to save the lives and NOT jeopardize their outcomes in a negative manner.

Closing the Trauma Center would be the ultimate failure of our responsibility to protect the vulnerable people of our county.

Best Regards,

Gardner Health Services Executive Leadership Team:

Rafael Vaquerano, CEO

Dr. Ranjani Chandramouli, CMO

Efrain Coria, COO

Guillermo Viveros, CFO

Dr. Ranjani Chandramouli
Chief Medical Officer

Gardner Health Services | Corporate Office

160 E. Virginia St., Ste. 100

San Jose, CA 95112

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<https://gardnerhealthservices.org>



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From: [Forrest Nixon](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 9: Receive report on reduction of services at Regional Medical Center
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 3:38:58 PM

RE: Item 9: Receive report on reduction of services at Regional Medical Center

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We live in difficult times. It is gut-wrenching when people make decisions which will make things even worse.

That is what HCA is doing with their decision to close the trauma center at Regional Medical Center. I became acquainted with HCA last summer when they closed Mission Oaks Psychiatric Hospital. When I googled HCA there were basically two types of articles: glowing articles about their stock performance and depressing articles about medical failings at the HCA hospitals nationwide. I would strongly urge everyone to google HCA and see what you find.

I concluded HCA was using our community's medical and psychological needs to generate their profits and didn't give a damn about our well-being.

I see HCA's decision to close the trauma center at Regional Medical Center as a confirmation of that pattern. People will die as they are transported to other hospitals. How clear can it get that HCA doesn't give a damn for us!

Please do everything you can to stop HCA from closing the trauma center! Also, we would be wise to do all we can to get HCA to leave our county.

Sincerely,

Forrest Nixon