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June 8, 2020

Re: Mendocino County Health Officer

Dear Honorable Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), we would like to offer our partnership and support to Mendocino County in the search of a permanent local public health officer. The health officer role is unique and challenging. California law gives local health officers at least 171 distinct duties, and grants them broad authority to take action to prevent disease. Due to the extensive roles and responsibilities of the health officer, CCLHO wanted to send the following as a reminder of what is in statute for the position of health officer:

- [17 CCR 1250](#) - "The health department shall be under the direction of the health officer devoting full time to official duties and these duties shall constitute his primary responsibility and no other activities shall interfere with performance of his official duties."
- [17 CCR 1256](#) - The state can approve part-time health officers in counties with a population of less than 25,000.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

We thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration with you about matters of importance to the state and local health officers. Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at karen.relucio@countyofnapa.org or by phone at (707) 253-4566.

Sincerely,

Karen Relucio, MD
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers