

Patients of bankrupt West Contra Costa hospital have limited time to claim medical records



Patients of a bankrupt West Contra Costa hospital have limited time to claim their medical records. (Tom Lochner/Bay Area News Group)

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SAN PABLO — Get your patient records from Doctors hospital before they are destroyed — that’s the message that went out Tuesday from Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia’s office to anyone ever treated at the former Brookside Hospital, which became Doctors Medical Center before it was declared insolvent and closed its doors to patients in April 2015.

The records must be claimed before Jan. 27, 2018, the message continues. It advises former patients and family members of former patients who want to obtain records to contact Juli Ahr of the West Contra Costa Healthcare District, which owns the hospital, as soon as possible.

Gioia noted he is not involved with the internal goings-on at the health care district and was just passing along the information.

“I just received the patient records destruction notice in the mail, as a former patient, and thought it was important to provide notice on this,” he said Wednesday.

The notice in the mail said to contact Ahr by one of the following methods.

- by mail, at Juli Ahr, West Contra Costa Healthcare District, P.O. Box 20760, El Sobrante CA 94820.
- phone 510-417-2210.
- fax 510-275-9586
- or email at jjohnson@wcchd.ca.gov

Ahr did not respond to several phone and email inquiries on Wednesday.

The hospital website, at wcchd.ca.gov, displayed the following message on Wednesday: “The server is temporarily unable to service your request due to the site owner reaching his/her bandwidth limit. Please try again later.”

The health care district filed for bankruptcy in September of 2016 after years of financial losses.

Although West Contra Costa no longer has a functioning community hospital, residents will continue to pay a \$52-a-year special parcel tax, at least until 2027, to pay off bonds the district sold after voters approved Measure D in 2004. The tax raises about \$5.5 million a year.

The district also receives more than \$3 million annually in ad valorem taxes.