

Marion County Hospital District (MCHD) Indigent Health Care Program 1113 N. Walcott St., Suite B Jefferson, Texas 75657 Open Monday – Friday 8:00 am 12:00 Noon (Excluding Holidays) Phone 903-665-2161 Fax 903-665-8011 Webpage: mctxhd.org

## The History of Why Marion County Tax Payers Pay Hospital District Taxes When There is NO HOSPITAL

In 1969 voters approved Bonds used to open the Marion County Hospital "MCH". The MCH served its community for many years. At some point it had operational problems. But before they could close their doors they needed to consider how they would meet the Texas Health and Safety Code (Chapter 61 Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act) and pay off the remaining debt on the Bonds. It was decided that on December 1, 1988 the MCH would close its doors and the Marion County Hospital District, MCHD, was established by an act of the State Legislation in accordance with the provisions of Section IX Article 9 of the Constitution of the State of Texas. A seven member district board was organized to comply with that State Legislation (Special District Local Laws Code Chapter 1055 Marion County Hospital District). The Board succeeded in paying off MCHD bonds in 1993 and is currently helping all qualified indigent residents of Marion County (the "County"). Because we are a Hospital District we do not qualify for any funding from the State of Texas or the U.S. Federal Government. Nor are we eligible to apply or receive grants. When property taxes are paid to the Marion County Tax Assessor the balance of tax revenue provides the only funding for MCHD.

The MCHD Board can be dissolved. The seven member board must receive a petition requesting an election for dissolution signed by at least 15% of Marion County District registered voters. If that is accomplished it can be placed on the ballot for a vote. If the vote passes for dissolution the care of the indigent goes back to the responsibility of the County. A county run program would be required to meet state mandated benefits for all employees required to run the indigent health care program and that cost will be passed on to the tax payer in higher county taxes. Because our current indigent health care program is under the Special District Local Law code Chapter 1055 we are able to keep our operational costs down.

The MCHD Open Board meetings are currently held once a month on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at our office located at 1113 N. Walcott St., Suite B, Jefferson, Texas 75657 and are open to the public. The agenda is posted at the Marion County Court House and on our webpage. We encourage and welcome all Marion County residents to attend.

Marion County Hospital District Board 2024



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