

September 11, 2024

The caution flag on Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Center's ("Community") Charity Navigator page relates to an article in *The Fresno Bee* reporting on a new civil complaint filed in Fresno Superior Court. Anyone can file a complaint even if wholly frivolous and filled with false and unproven allegations. The defendant has the right to defend itself. Until a plaintiff's claims have been tested through the litigation process, a complaint is merely one party's unproven version of events.

Now that the plaintiffs have told their side of the story in the complaint, Community will have the opportunity to do so through the judicial process. *The Fresno Bee's* article provides one perspective on the lawsuit; coverage by other press outlets, however, presents a very different perspective. See:

- Stone, R. (2014, August 14). Report: Lawsuit against Community misses mark on Medi-Cal rules. *San Joaquin Valley Sun*. <https://sjvsun.com/health/report-lawsuit-against-community-misses-mark-on-medi-cal-rules/>
- Smith, E. (2024, August 13). Nonprofits' lawsuit against Community Health System misstates Medi-Cal funding rules. *GV Wire*. <https://gvwire.com/2024/08/13/nonprofits-lawsuit-against-community-health-system-misstates-medi-cal-funding-rules/>

It is also important to note that plaintiffs' complaint does not allege that Community has, in any way, misspent funds from private donors.

Community unequivocally denies the allegations of the complaint and the picture it paints of the organization. Community is deeply committed to bettering the lives of all those we serve. Its flagship hospital, Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC), cares for more hospitalized Medi-Cal patients than any other hospital in California and ranks third in the nation. Community invested nearly \$125 million last year alone to cover the shortfall created by government reimbursement programs in providing care to low-income families. CRMC has undergone extensive growth, with numerous improvements and renovations. Since 2007, CRMC has added 285 beds, for a total of 685 beds. These improvements continue as we are currently renovating a 154-bed skilled nursing facility, set to open next year, and planning a state-of-the-art neurosciences institute.

Community has a rich, 125-year history of providing unparalleled care to residents of California's Central Valley without regard to race, income level, or geographic location. Community does so out of an enduring commitment to the region and its residents. Private donations play a critical role in Community's mission, and Community has always been a responsible steward of donations received from its many generous donors through the years.