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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENINSULA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT TO LAUNCH A NEW MODEL OF DENTAL CARE *Center Will Provide Dental Care to Growing, Underserved Populations*

BURLINGAME, CA, August 23, 2013: At its regularly scheduled board meeting on August 22, the Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors approved \$2 million in funding to launch an Apple Tree Center for Dental Health on District-owned property at 430 N. El Camino Real in San Mateo. The Apple Tree model of care removes barriers to access and will provide basic oral hygiene and dental services to underserved populations in the San Mateo County service area. The model uses mobile outreach units and tele-dentistry to reach the institutionalized frail elderly and disabled. The Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) will lease its building to Apple Tree Dental for 10 years, assist with financing the tenant improvements and purchase of equipment, and provide operating capital for the launch. The Center is expected to open in the summer of 2014.

"The PHCD Board recognizes the barriers to access for the most vulnerable in our community, and the paucity of coverage for seniors for even basic dental care." said Dan Ulyot, MD, Chair of the Board. "The Apple Tree Model, a Minnesota based non-profit, has a 28-year track record of serving all ages and incomes. Apple Tree and PHCD share the vision and values of prevention, education and access for all. We also recognize the importance of dental health to overall health and quality of life." Ulyot said.

Key components of the 430 N. El Camino Center will include:

- The Dental Clinic with nine operatories, including a conscious sedation room
- The Community Care Coordination Center that will manage all off-site care delivery
- A multi-site delivery truck with three complete mobile offices for off-site visits and care

The Center will serve as the "hub" for both general and advanced dentistry services needed by underserved populations. The Community Care Coordination Center staff will manage the on-site delivery of dental care at "spoke" sites, including nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, group homes and schools.

In 2011, PHCD funded a grant for Apple Tree Dental to conduct a needs assessment in the San Mateo County service area examining changing demographics, the expected needs for dental care, particularly among the frail elderly, and whether or not current gaps exist in available dental services. This Eldercare Dental Needs Assessment concluded that San Mateo County could support a sustainable dental care program to meet growing geriatric and special care

dentistry needs. Following the needs assessment, in 2012, PHCD and Apple Tree Dental developed a business plan that lead to the program and facilities approved last evening.

The needs assessment and business plan indicate that within five years, approximately 8,500 individual patients will receive dental care annually, representing 30,000 dental visits per year.

Earlier this year, San Mateo County released its triennial community health assessment. The report noted that “access to dental care is among the lowest types of access to healthcare service,” and “that no systematic effort to identify needs or plan for future needs exist in the county.” The PHCD is pleased to offer a long-term plan and solution to address this vital community need.

About the Peninsula Health Care District:

Created by state legislation and launched by local voter approval in 1947, the Peninsula Health Care District serves the communities of San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo and Foster City by responding to local priorities and allocating resources to programs and services that address these needs. For more information, visit peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org.

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