



Achieving Community Health Together

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENINSULA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT WELCOMES SEQUOIA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT'S PARTNERSHIP IN LAUNCHING INNOVATIVE DENTAL PROGRAM IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Sequoia Healthcare District commits \$1 million to the Center for Dental Health

BURLINGAME, CA, May 8, 2014: The Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) announced today that Sequoia Healthcare District has committed \$1 million to help bring the innovative programs and services of Apple Tree Dental (Apple Tree) to San Mateo County. Apple Tree's mission is to remove access barriers to comprehensive dental care for all people, especially the underserved frail elderly, individuals with developmental disabilities, and people with mobility impairments.

"We are grateful to the Sequoia Healthcare District Board of Directors for their partnership and generous contribution in helping to launch the Center for Dental Health," said PHCD Board Chair Lawrence Cappel, Ph.D. "The PHCD Board is proud of its four years of due diligence in defining needs, researching solutions, surveying current dental care providers, and finding the Apple Tree organization. The Apple Tree model provides high quality, cost-effective dental care, treats patients of all ages – irrespective of physical and mental abilities or insurance status – and has done so for nearly 30 years in Minnesota. Its track record of success and sustainability will be an asset to the residents of our Districts and beyond."

In 2011, PHCD funded a grant for Apple Tree to further analyze previous findings that changing demographics will impact access to dental care, particularly among the frail elderly. This assessment concluded that San Mateo County could support a sustainable dental care program to meet growing geriatric and special care dentistry needs. Based on these findings, PHCD committed to addressing these needs.

In addition to funding the due diligence process, PHCD committed a \$2 million impact grant to help equip the Center for Dental Health, as well as mobile units to serve residential care facilities and to fund operational start-up costs. Sequoia Healthcare District's \$1 million grant will help the new program launch at maximum efficiency, and serve more residents from the outset. The Sequoia Healthcare District will provide \$500,000 immediately and the remaining \$500,000 will be awarded in one year, following Apple Tree's interim report on the impact in serving the residents of its district.

The Center for Dental Health will be located on PHCD property at 430 N. El Camino Real in San Mateo and is slated to open by the end of this year. The Center for Dental Health will serve as a "hub" for both general dentistry 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. At full capacity, the Center for Dental Health anticipates delivering approximately 8,500 dental visits per year.

To learn more about the Center for Dental Health, visit www.peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org.

About the Peninsula Health Care District

Founded in 1947, the Peninsula Health Care District serves the communities of San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo and Foster City by supporting the unique health and wellness priorities of our vibrant Peninsula communities, and safeguarding access to health care services, today and in the future. PHCD fulfills its commitment to the community through oversight of District assets and infrastructure, planning for future health care needs, and investing taxpayer dollars in local health-focused organizations and programs.