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Palomar Health Becomes First Certified Healthcare District

Sept. 10, 2014 – Escondido, Calif. – In an impressive demonstration of commitment to ethical and sound business practices, Palomar Health has earned designation as a Certified Healthcare District by the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD). Palomar Health is the first California healthcare district to earn this prestigious certification.

To be designated as a Certified Healthcare District, districts must demonstrate Best Practices in Governance that have been set forth by the ACHD Governance Committee. This core set of standards ensures that public healthcare districts are conducting business in a manner that is open and transparent for the benefit of the communities they serve. Certification is available to all California healthcare districts, not just to ACHD members.

“We are honored to become the first California Certified Healthcare District,” says Ted Kleiter, Palomar Health board president. “As a public healthcare district, we have a huge responsibility to our community. We strive to serve our district in an honest and transparent way each day.”

Kleiter observed that the designation validates that Palomar Health is executing its mission to heal, comfort and promote health in the communities it serve, and stated, “I applaud Board Director Jerry Kaufman for overseeing the application process that got us to this point.”

Public healthcare districts have well-defined legal obligations for conducting business in a moral and responsible manner. To earn certification, Palomar Health demonstrated compliance in many important areas, including: transparency, ethics, reporting, purchasing, conflict of interest, requesting public funds and executive compensation.

“Being a Certified Healthcare District assures the North County community that we are functioning with their best interest in mind,” stated Robert Hemker, Palomar Health president and CEO. “Palomar Health has always been committed to providing the best possible healthcare to our patients, while adhering to best management practices. It is gratifying to be acknowledged at this level for the hard work our staff exemplifies every day.”

Palomar Health is the largest public healthcare district in California, and operates hospitals and a variety of community health services in an 850 square mile region. The hospitals include Palomar Medical Center and Palomar Health Downtown Campus in Escondido, as well as Pomerado Hospital in Poway. Palomar Health’s trauma center serves more than 2,200 square miles of South Riverside and North San Diego counties.

California's healthcare districts are public entities that provide community-based healthcare services to residents throughout the state. They respond to the needs in their district by providing a range of services, which may include a hospital, clinic, skilled nursing facility or emergency medical services, as well as education and wellness programs. Each of California's healthcare districts is governed by a locally elected board of directors who are directly accountable to the communities they serve.

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Palomar Health

Palomar Health is the most comprehensive healthcare delivery system in northern San Diego County and the first and only California member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. It is the largest public healthcare district by area in the state, with more than 500,000 residents, and is governed by a publicly-elected board of directors. Palomar Health has several facilities serving North County, including hospitals in Escondido and Poway, express care health clinics in Escondido, Rancho Penasquitos, San Elijo Hills and Temecula, and a skilled nursing facility in Poway. The health system provides medical services in virtually all fields of medicine, including primary care, cardiovascular care, emergency services, trauma, cancer, orthopedics, women's health, rehabilitation, robotic surgery and bariatric surgery. Learn more at: www.PalomarHealth.org.

Association of California Healthcare Districts

The Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) is the trade association for healthcare districts, which provide health and wellness services in their communities. ACHD provides legislative advocacy, leadership education, operations and communication support to healthcare district members. Learn more at: www.achd.org