



Media Contact
MacKenzie Communications
janis@mackenziesf.com or
rachel@mackenziesf.com
415.403.0800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENINSULA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT ANNOUNCES TWO MAJOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Healthy Schools Programs and Behavioral Health Services Receive \$4.5 Million

BURLINGAME, CA, March 5, 2012: At its regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 23, the Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) Board of Directors approved two major initiatives that support the District's objective of fostering healthy communities in San Mateo County. The board unanimously approved \$4.5 million to support the Healthy Schools Initiative and the San Mateo County Behavioral Health Psychiatric Residency Program.

The Healthy Schools Initiative reflects a three-year PHCD partnership with five districts: Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, San Bruno and San Mateo/Foster City. The 39 K-8 schools serve 24,500 students, and with current budget constraints there are "many missed opportunities for health education that could impact a child's health for the rest of his/her life," according to a PHCD study. The \$4 million will be used to fund positions (such as school nurses), programs, and materials that will address priority physical and mental health needs of students within the District's boundaries.

While each of the school districts has met their legislated mandates, there is much more to be done, said District Board Chair Dan Ullyot, MD. "The future health of our communities is a direct reflection of the healthy nutritional and physical fitness habits students learn during their formative years," he said. "The District will work with each of the Superintendents to identify the specific needs of their schools, students and families, so that we can be flexible and respectful of the diverse and myriad needs. School nurses, additional physical education classes, and school-based health clinics are but a few examples."

In a separate action, the PHCD Board also approved \$500,000 over four years to fund a full-time psychiatric resident physician in the County's highly regarded Behavioral Health Program. Recently, the County was forced to eliminate one psychiatric resident position due to budget considerations. The goal of this funding is to help ease the burden on the County Health System and to contribute to the training of a much needed healthcare specialist to serve our communities.

Cheryl Fama, CEO of PHCD, noted that the need for additional psychiatric service spans all socio-economic and ethnic populations. "Our District has a long-standing history of supporting behavioral health programs. The additional psychiatric resident will directly serve patients and behavioral health services while contributing to the future of this important County Residency Program. "

In other actions, the PHCD Board of Directors discussed the District's role in delivering solutions to long-term care needs, as well as heard an update on the Eldercare Dental Project.

###

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 www.peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org.