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Health and Resource Services Administration to Make National Announcement at Summit Pacific July 18

(ELMA, WA) – The regional office of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) notified Summit Pacific early last week that the critical access hospital was selected to serve as the host location for an important HRSA announcement regarding a recently offered federal funding opportunity for Rural Residency Planning and Development Program.

Summit Pacific applied for this federal grant in December of 2018, which offers \$750,000 over a three-year period to organizations nationwide in support of the planning and development of new rural residency programs in primary care areas of shortage including family medicine, pediatrics and psychiatry. Grantees will be notified on or around August 1, 2019 regarding award funding decisions. The HRSA visit to Summit Pacific puts a spotlight on the development of medical education in rural locations and critical access hospitals, and further supports the tremendous efforts of rural communities to plan and develop residency training programs in areas most in need of physicians.

The purpose of this grant program is to develop new rural residency programs or Rural Training Tracks (RTT) with the goal of further supporting expansion of the physician workforce in rural and underserved areas. The new rural residency program planning must demonstrate sustainability through separate public or private funding beyond the initial federally supported grant period.

“We are both honored and excited to be highlighted by HRSA for our work in rural family medicine training, and we look forward to their visit. We are proud to showcase the innovative work of Summit Pacific in addressing the health needs of our community,” said Summit Pacific’s Rural Family Medicine Residency Program Director, Dr. Laurie Belknap.

The public is invited and encourage to attend the presentation, which takes place on the Summit Pacific Wellness Center Plaza, Thursday, July 18 at 10 a.m.

The Health Resources and Services Administration is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA is the primary Federal agency responsible for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. For more information about HRSA and its programs, visit www.hrsa.gov.

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Summit Pacific's vision is "Through Summit Care, we will build the healthiest community in the Nation." We passionately provide essential healthcare to all individuals of our community with an emphasis on quality, access and compassion. Summit Pacific operates a Level IV Critical Access Hospital with 24-hour emergency services, rural healthcare clinics, an urgent care clinic and offers physical and occupational therapy, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging, a swing bed program and more. To learn more about Summit Pacific, visit www.sp-mc.org.