



March 29, 2013

TO: President Sonia Melara, MSW  
And Honorable Members of the Health Commission

THROUGH: Barbara Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

FROM: Mivic Hirose, RN, MS, CNS  
Executive Administrator

RE: Laguna Honda Updates

This memo is to provide updates about Laguna Honda's Hospice and Palliative Care Program.

First, the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday approved a settlement in the lawsuit brought against the City by Dr. Derek Kerr. As part of the settlement, the hospital will install a plaque on the South 3 Hospice and Palliative Care neighborhood. The plaque will say, "In recognition of Derek Kerr, MD, for his contributions to Laguna Honda and its Hospice and Palliative Care Program (1989-2010)." Also, as part of the settlement, Laguna Honda's Medical Director, Dr. Colleen Riley, and Chief of Staff, Dr. Steven Thompson, provided Dr. Kerr a letter stating, "This letter serves to memorialize that (1) Dr. Derek Kerr was respected by his colleagues at Laguna Honda for his skills and accomplishments as a hospice and palliative care physician and for his work in establishing and running the hospital's Hospice and Palliative Care Program; and (2) when Dr. Kerr retired from City service in June 2010, his clinical privileges as a member of the Laguna Honda medical staff expired by operation of the Medical Staff By-Laws and not for reasons related in any way to the quality of medical care he provided to hospital residents."

Second, please join me in congratulating the Laguna Honda Hospice and Palliative Care Program, which received a 2013 Leadership Award from the California Coalition for Compassionate Care. The annual award ceremony will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Airport Hilton in Burlingame. Laguna Honda will be honored for providing hospice and palliative care to an economically disadvantaged and culturally diverse population.

And lastly, the Friends of Laguna Honda has generously provided funds for a gazebo in the South 3 Hospice and Palliative Care garden. Facilities staff is in the process of constructing the gazebo. Families, residents and staff are very much looking forward to using the new gazebo in the coming summer months.

On behalf of Laguna Honda community, I thank the Health Commission and Director Garcia for your support of Laguna Honda in its mission to provide San Franciscans with 5-star rehabilitation and skilled nursing services every day.

Thank you.