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Santa Clara County Public Health Department Earns National Accreditation

Santa Clara County, CA: The Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) today announced it has earned national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board: a designation reserved for the highest performing health departments in the nation.

According to Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County Health Officer and Public Health Department Director, public health accreditation is more than a formal recognition of a department's effectiveness and quality, it's about embracing the challenge of continuous improvement. "When we embarked on this process back in 2012, we adopted the motto 'rising higher' using hot air balloon imagery to inspire and motivate us, and to illustrate the true intent of accreditation to our partners," said Dr. Cody, "Earning accreditation challenges our department to keep improving and opens us up to new opportunities, which we will use to improve the community's health."

The national accreditation program, launched in 2011, is jointly supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) aims to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments. It sets standards against which the nation's more than 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To earn accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

Since the launch of the national accreditation program in 2011, 117 public health departments and one integrated local public health department system have achieved accreditation through PHAB. The transformational benefits of being served by a PHAB-accredited health department now reach 154 million people, or 50 percent of the U.S. population.

SCCPHD is one of two California health departments to earn accreditation in this round, bringing the total number of accredited California public health departments to four. The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services also received accreditation this week. Ventura County Public Health Department, and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) were previously accredited.

PHAB reviews accreditation applications several times each year, and on March 8th accredited 21 health departments and one integrated local public health department system. More information about PHAB and the accreditation process can be found online at www.phaboard.org.

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