



Connecting and empowering not-for-profit hospices throughout California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Hospice Network Welcomes Newest Member YoloCares

Coalition champions nonprofit, community-based advanced illness and end-of-life care

September 28, 2021 – California Hospice Network (CHN), a strategic partnership committed to sustaining local nonprofit mission-driven hospice care in California, welcomes its newest member YoloCares. Along with Hospice of Santa Cruz County and Mission Hospice & Home Care, YoloCares is dedicated to providing exceptional, community-based patient care and end-of-life services.

In 2020, California served more Medicare hospice patients than any other state in the nation. Hospice has recently seen tremendous growth in California, but not as Dame Cicely Saunders – the founder of the modern hospice movement – envisioned. Nonprofit, community-based hospices like the members of CHN still operate by the founding philosophy of integrated, team-based, compassionate care – delivered by and for a local community. But these legacy hospices, many founded by volunteers more than 40 years ago, risk being pushed out by growing for-profit hospices, which now comprise more than 91% of the state’s 1,200 hospices.

In the Milliman report commissioned by the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation, nonprofit hospices were found to provide 10% more nursing visits and 35% more social work visits per patient day than for-profit hospices. Nonprofit hospices were also found to provide twice as many therapy visits and nearly three times as many physician/nurse practitioner visits.

“While all hospices must provide federally-mandated care, nonprofit hospices boast a unique niche of providing truly exceptional care and an array of services that go above and beyond Medicare requirements and what insurance will reimburse,” Craig Dresang, CEO of YoloCares said. “Significant changes in Medicare and the hospice payment structure are putting pressure on nonprofit hospices nationwide. By joining with other like-minded nonprofit hospice providers in our state, we are better positioned to provide the high-quality care our community deserves long into the future.”

For more than 45 years, YoloCares has remained committed to providing the highest quality end-of-life care in communities across five counties in Northern California. The organization will continue to operate as a distinct and independent nonprofit, mission-driven hospice and palliative care organization, while working together with CHN members to share best practices, enhance quality of care, maximize operational efficiencies, and ensure long term viability within a changing healthcare environment.



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“We are thrilled to welcome YoloCares to the California Hospice Network,” said Michael Milward, CEO of CHN. “In the network, our members are stronger together and better prepared for the opportunities and challenges ahead. With strategic and operational support from CHN, these local, community-based nonprofit hospices continue to operate independently and can focus on what they do best: providing exemplary end-of-life care.”

CHN is focused on delivering preferred pricing on essential, non-clinical services to its members and developing an affiliate geographic footprint that serves a significant percentage of the California population. CHN is actively recruiting nonprofit hospice partners to join the network in order to build reach, scale the operation, and create lasting impact for all Californians.

Together, CHN member hospices serve 10 counties in Northern California with a collective population of approximately 6.3 million residents. Their combined annual budgets total more than \$60 million, and they represent a collective workforce of 600 employees and an equal number of professionally trained volunteers.

CHN recently joined other nonprofit hospice networks from across the country at a meeting of the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation. Each of the networks were formed and continue to drive membership around the challenges of both sustainability and relevance in the face of increased for-profit competition.

About California Hospice Network

California Hospice Network is a strategic partnership committed to sustaining local nonprofit community-based hospice care in California. The Network’s member organizations, Hospice of Santa Cruz County, Mission Hospice & Home Care, and YoloCares, are each recognized as trusted leaders in the communities they have served for more than 40 years. Aligned in their mission and values, Network members are working, sharing, and planning together to create stronger community-based hospices that deliver exceptional patient care and end-of-life services.

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