

## Sea Mar Community Health Centers and Vashon Health Care District Joint Statement

The Vashon Health Care District and Sea Mar Community Health Centers have reached agreement on future endeavors in the provision and enhancement of health care on Vashon Island, ending their more formal contractual relationship and moving forward independently but collaboratively. It is their wish to jointly announce the following:

Sea Mar will continue, with no subsidy from the District, to provide primary care services to island residents at its Sunrise Ridge clinic while it builds a modern health care facility on the site of the Spinnaker Building in the Vashon town core. Sea Mar intends to be the long-term provider in that new facility, with capacity to accommodate the growth of patient numbers, as well as provide additional services. Sea Mar is proud of having never left a community, and is looking forward to continuing that tradition on Vashon Island.

Sea Mar has committed to provide the community with clinic performance metrics, including patient satisfaction survey results, and to participate in community health assessments and planning efforts. Sea Mar continues to welcome community input into both the operation of health care delivery on Vashon, and the building of the new facilities.

Sea Mar thanks the District for its role in bringing Sea Mar to the island and helping to sustain its early operations, and looks forward to a collaborative relationship with the District that brings out the best of each organization's abilities and missions.

The Vashon Health Care District will sublease the Sunrise Ridge clinic to Sea Mar during construction of the new facility, to ensure the swiftest, most economical construction process, and to ensure that patients, providers, and staff are not subjected to undue disruption or reduction in access or services during this time. The District, in recognition of the commitment of Sea Mar to stay and invest in the construction of new facilities, gives its support for Sea Mar's use of \$3 million of state capital budget funds previously appropriated for clinic construction on Vashon.

In return, in the unforeseen event Sea Mar ceases providing services, the District will have the option to buy the new clinic facilities at a price that will exclude the value of the state capital funds. Sea Mar also has agreed to provide the District with twelve months' advance notice in the event that it decides to stop providing health care services to Vashon, providing the District with time to make other arrangements for on-island primary care.

The District will continue the work of identifying and addressing health care needs on the island. While it will no longer be officially contracted or with Sea Mar in the provision of care, the District believes wholeheartedly that it is in the resident's best interest that Sea Mar be successful, and extends its thanks, and a hope for a truly collaborative future.

"Sea Mar looks forward to continuing to serve the Vashon community and hopes to expand its services beyond primary medical care on Vashon."—Rogelio Riojas, Sea Mar CEO

"The Vashon Health Care District is pleased to have completed lengthy discussions with Sea Mar establishing a vision for primary health care on the island for the near future, and hopefully far beyond. While we would have preferred to work more closely with Sea Mar, we are encouraged by their financial investment as well as the commitments made in our agreement. We are happy to provide peace of mind to our neighbors during the construction of Sea Mar's facility by extending the sublease of the Sunrise Ridge clinic. The Health Care District will continue to engage the people of Vashon as we seek to identify, develop and address other health care needs on the Island."—Tom Langland, District President

Questions or comments can be directed to Superintendent Tim Johnson at the Health Care District ([superintendent@vashonhealthcare.org](mailto:superintendent@vashonhealthcare.org)) and Executive Vice President Mary Bartolo at Sea Mar Community Health Centers ([marybartolo@seamarchc.org](mailto:marybartolo@seamarchc.org))