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NEW DATA EXAMINES LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES TRENDS

SACRAMENTO – Shining more light on an increasingly important part of the healthcare system, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today released new information on long-term care facilities. This Web-based report provides a look at some of the utilization and financing trends of these facilities over five years.

Long-Term Care (LTC) generally refers to a variety of health and human services programs for persons with physical or mental conditions who need care for an extended period of time. OSHPD collects, reports, and publishes Annual Utilization and Annual Financial Disclosure data on LTC facilities licensed by the California Department of Public Health. Long-Term care services can be delivered in a variety of settings ranging from homes, to certain outpatient or day care facilities, to residential care homes, and ultimately to skilled nursing facilities. This report’s data focuses on three types of LTC facilities - Skilled Nursing Facilities (Freestanding), Intermediate Care Facilities, and Congregate Living Facilities.

“As the baby boomer generation ages, the cost, quality and accessibility of long-term care will become an increasingly important consideration for them and their families,” said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. “The findings in this data allow consumers to become better informed about the healthcare system and more involved in their healthcare choices.”

Following are some highlights from the report:

- From 2003 to 2007, the portion of California’s population over the age of 75 increased by almost 9.8%. The overall number of skilled nursing, intermediate care and congregate living health facilities has remained relatively stable over the past several years. The numbers show only a slight decline from a high of 1,260 in 1997 to 1,215 in 2007, a reduction of about 3.6%.

- Total revenues for long-term care facilities in California have been increasing at an average annual rate of 8.2% from 2003 to 2007, in comparison to an increase of 7.1% in acute care hospital net operating revenue for the same period. The impact on the industry has been an increase in net income from $70 million in 2003 to almost $448 million in 2007, with most of the increase (80%) coming from patient care.

“Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California”
As one of thirteen departments within California’s Health and Human Services Agency, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is committed to “Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California.” OSHPD analyzes and supports the state’s healthcare infrastructure, promoting medical care transparency for Californians. OSHPD also supports a diverse and culturally competent workforce, ensures safety of buildings used to provide healthcare, insures loans to develop healthcare facilities, and facilitates development of a sustained capacity for communities to address their healthcare concerns.

The “Long-Term Care Facilities Utilization and Financing Trends 2003-2007” report can be accessed at oshpd.ca.gov.