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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

HAZEL HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL LOOKS TO THE FUTURE IN STRATEGIC PLANNING

March 1, 2018, Hollister, CA – Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital convened a Health Care Advisory committee comprised of community leaders to help guide the District Board, as additional community health care advocates, on strategic plans and the future direction of the Health Care District.

Members attended the inaugural meeting on February 23 and heard presentations from District staff along with consultants that focused on how the 70 plus Health Care Districts in California have fulfilled their health care missions for their communities through service partnering/affiliation and the regulatory models public Districts have available for consideration.

The District Board is taking a proactive approach to address the strategic shifts occurring nationwide with healthcare delivery models. Hospital inpatient admissions continue to soften for most hospitals throughout the United States as more care is directed to less expensive, more convenient ambulatory/outpatient settings. San Benito Health Care District has responded to this care transition to outpatient services over the past several years and now provides services in 20 different locations in this community. More than 2/3 of the District's revenue comes from these outpatient services.

This is both a challenging, yet exciting time for the hospital/District to review, evaluate, and identify options on establishing a relationship with or partnering with another highly regarded health care system to strengthen its ability to better serve our community with sustainable, comprehensive high quality health care services.

**HAZEL HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
911 Sunset Drive
Hollister, CA 95023**

The District is scheduling additional Community Health Care Advisory Committee meetings in March that are open to the public, as well as Town Hall meetings. The public is welcome to forward to our Community Relations Director, Frankie Gallagher, at fgallagher@hazelhawkins.com their input, questions or feedback for the District Board at this initial phase of review.

District Board and Committee meeting information and agendas can be located on the website hazelhawkins.com/#news

For more information, contact Frankie Gallagher at 636-2644.

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