FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Barbara Health Care Center
Impacted by Dermatology Physician Shortage

The Santa Barbara Health Care Center, the largest provider of specialty and subspecialty medical services for the uninsured and people with Medi-Cal coverage in Santa Barbara County, is seeking a new dermatologist.

After years of committed service, Dr. Keith Llewellyn is leaving the Health Care Center to spend more time with his family and to expand his own private practice. During his tenure at the SBHCC, he was the only source for many people with skin concerns.

"Due to the significant shortage of dermatologists, especially for the uninsured, we are facing a situation where skin cancers and other conditions may not be treated in a timely fashion due to a lack of trained dermatologists wanting to serve in a Public Health Clinic setting", says, Peter Hasler MD, Santa Barbara County Medical Director.

The Santa Barbara Health Care Center offers a wide-range of vital services beyond dermatology, including, ophthalmology, neurology and much more to people who have Medi-Cal or are uninsured. The Center serves as a teaching site for physicians of the Cottage Hospital residency programs; an Internal Medicine Resident is assigned to work with the Dermatologist at each clinic. When capacity is sufficient, the clinic accepts referrals from other clinics and private physician offices for patients who are low income, uninsured or MediCal members.

To remedy this urgent situation the Santa Barbara Health Care Center is working to identify a dermatologist or two willing to provide their expertise for a total of eight hours per month. The Health Care Center will provide reimbursement, necessary staffing and, appointment schedulers and most importantly the patients who are grateful and appreciative of the services. Interested dermatologists should contact Dr. Maya Antony at (805) 681-5493 for more information.

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