Public Health Department Awarded Grant of $257,976

The California Department of Health Care Services has selected the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department as a recipient for a Medi-Cal Outreach and Enrollment grant in the amount of $257,976.

The Public Health Department (PHD) plans to develop a “Benefits Center” where newly eligible and underserved populations will be educated, enrolled and retained in Medi-Cal. The “Benefits Center” will develop a strong enrollment and retention program to assist with new enrollments and annual renewals for Medi-Cal beneficiaries so they do not lose their health coverage. The center will coordinate enrollment with other community providers. In addition, the “Benefits Center” will provide education within our community.

Dr. Takashi Wada, PHD Department Director, noted, “We are committed to assisting those in our community who are eligible for health coverage so they can receive preventive services and all of the benefits of health care coverage. This grant will support our success in this area.”

The “Benefits Center” will target specific population groups that are often beyond the reach of traditional outreach activities including persons:

- With mental health disorders
- With substance use disorders
- Who are homeless
- With limited English proficiency

PHD currently has more than 80 employees trained as Certified Enrollment Counselors who have assisted 2,775 individuals with applications for health care coverage as of January 27, 2014.

###