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Laguna Honda Wins National Cultural Diversity in Healthcare Award

July 17, 2008, San Francisco, CA -- Laguna Honda Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will be honored for its commitment to provide culturally effective healthcare by the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), the association announced this week.

The award is given annually to organizations that make a significant commitment to reducing health care disparities. Laguna Honda nurses will receive the award at the AAHSA annual meeting in Philadelphia, October 12-15.

“This is an important award for Laguna Honda,” said Executive Administrator John Kanaley. “It shows that our efforts to provide culturally innovative long term care are helping to set the standard nationwide.”

In a letter announcing the award, AAHSA officials said, “We salute Laguna Honda for embracing this philosophical change. Your activities have gone beyond training to include organization-wide changes in policies, job descriptions, residents’ rights and performance appraisals to encourage a culturally informed and effective staff. Most importantly, the residents themselves have guided the effort and are actively participating.”

The award is the fourth time in recent months that Laguna Honda staff has been recognized nationally by their peers for leadership in innovative programming.

The organization’s restorative care program received a best practices award from the California Hospital Association in October 2007. Over 80% of Laguna Honda residents receive restorative therapy, part of the organization’s commitment to rehabilitation and quality of life.

In April, Laguna Honda was named a business of the year by Jewish Vocational Services of San Francisco. The annual award honors major organizations that support employee career development. Past recipients include, Wells Fargo, Macy’s West, and UCSF.

Also in April, Laguna Honda Chief Nursing Officer Mivic Hirose took top honors at the conference of the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators (AANAC) in Baltimore for integrating high standards of data accuracy into resident care plans.

The cultural effectiveness program is part of Laguna Honda’s “Journey from Institution to Community,” the organizational development effort guiding the facility’s transition to new state-of-the-art buildings in 2010.

The Washington, D.C.-based American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging is

a national, non-profit organization that promotes quality care for seniors and others with special needs. More information about the Laguna Honda award can be found on the organization's web site: http://www.aahsa.org/shared_learning//awards/default.asp.

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