

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Senior Care Providers Gabriella Ambrosi and Crista Chelemedos Join
Petaluma Health Care District Board of Directors**

PETALUMA, Calif., Jan., 18, 2019 – [Petaluma Health Care District](#) (PHCD) welcomes Gabriella Ambrosi and Crista Chelemedos to its Board of Directors. Elected by Southern Sonoma County voters, Ambrosi and Chelemedos were sworn in to their positions at the December 10 board meeting for four-year terms. Dr. Jeffrey Tobias, a retired physician who was appointed to the board due to a vacated seat in April 2018, was also sworn in for a two-year term.

Ambrosi, a 24-year Petaluma resident, brings a diverse range of experience to the board. She founded Sequoia Senior Solutions nearly 16 years ago, which provides in-home care services to the elderly in six regional counties. Sequoia has served thousands of seniors with personalized programs, allowing them to remain in their homes. A native of Italy, Ambrosi was a registered nurse equivalent at a prestigious University hospital in Padua for 10 years, and she also spent several years in marketing positions for international medical device companies. Ambrosi is an active member of the Petaluma Chamber of Commerce and has received a Women in Business Award from the *North Bay Business Journal*.

Also a senior care professional, Chelemedos brings 25 years of experience in community health nonprofit positions. She is executive director of Senior Advocacy Services, an agency providing activism, educational services and collaborative resources for aging populations. Prior to this role, she served as business manager for the Family Life Center, a youth treatment facility, and finance director of Senior Access, which cares for individuals afflicted with dementia. In addition to her new role on PHCD's board, Chelemedos currently serves as board president of the state association California Long Term Care Ombudsman and is a board member for the Congress of California Seniors.

“Our two new board members have a long history demonstrating a commitment to this community and are skilled in building successful health and wellness programs,” said Elece Hempel, PHCD board president. “Additionally, they are passionate about partnerships and the collective impact we can make to best serve the needs of our local residents through a community hospital and health programs, such as CHIPA (Community Health Initiative of the Petaluma Area) and HeartSafe Community. We look forward to their contributions to the board.”

PHCD is a local public agency that identifies the health needs and priorities of local residents and provides or supports services and programs in response to these needs. PHCD also ensures access to high-quality health care services and owns Petaluma Valley Hospital (PVH). The PHCD Board has been striving to secure a new long-term agreement to operate PVH since 2015, and recently signed a non-binding letter of intent (LOI), pursuant to which ST Network, LLC (ST Network), a proposed joint operating company between St. Joseph Health and Adventist Health System/West, will operate PVH under a 30-year term lease. Final lease negotiations will occur once the applicable regulatory authorities have approved ST Network. The LOI, which can be read in full [here](#), was presented to the community in open session at the January 15, 2019 board meeting. St. Joseph Health continues to operate PVH through the transaction.

[PHCD's Board of Directors](#) is a publicly-elected five-member board working in coordination with CEO Ramona Faith. Board members may serve consecutive terms. Ambrosi and Chelemedos join board members Elece Hempel, Fran Adams and Jeffery Tobias.

About Petaluma Health Care District

The Petaluma Health Care District (PHCD) is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the Southern Sonoma County community through leadership, advocacy, support, partnerships and education. Its vision is to foster a healthier community, a thriving hospital and local access to comprehensive health and wellness services. PHCD has served the health and wellness needs of the community for more than 70 years and is a public agency managed by the community for the community. For more information, please visit www.phcd.org. Follow PHCD on [Facebook](#) and [@PHCDistrict](#) on Twitter.

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