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***City of Florence, PeaceHealth Medical Group invite public
to second health care town hall***

FLORENCE, Ore. – The City of Florence and PeaceHealth are hosting a second health care Town Hall as a follow-up to the inaugural forum in August. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in this free event, which will occur from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at the Florence Events Center.

During this second town hall, PeaceHealth leaders will:

- Provide an update on the recruitment of providers
- Discuss the importance of Team Medicine and full integration of physician assistants and nurse practitioners to improve access to care

Community members also will have the opportunity to ask questions during the forum.

The provider shortage is not unique to Florence. Nationally, rural communities are struggling to recruit and retain providers. Nationwide, physician shortages are expected to balloon in the next five years, estimating that by 2020 there will be 90,000 fewer physicians than needed. In Florence specifically, many factors are influencing this trend:

- Most physicians prefer to live and work in major cities
- One in three practicing physicians in the U.S. is over the age of 55 and close to retirement
- Florence has an increasingly older local population: 36% of Florence residents are 65+, while the national average is 12.4%
- More insured in the community as a result of the Affordable Care Act

“We know the recent provider changes are leaving our community and patients in a state of unease,” said Rick Yecny, chief administrative officer, Peace Harbor Medical Center. “Our hope is that through forums such as this town hall we can provide some important answers to questions, while also demonstrating our continued commitment to honoring our valued partnership with our community.”

Visit facebook.com/peaceharbor to share your questions and concerns leading up to the event. For the latest information about the event and PeaceHealth’s provider recruiting efforts, visit peacehealth.org/WeCare.

About PeaceHealth: PeaceHealth was founded in 1890 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. Based in Vancouver, Wash., PeaceHealth is a not-for-profit, mission-based Catholic health system offering care to communities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. **PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center** has been recognized for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes shown to improve care for certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care. Since opening its doors in 1989, Peace Harbor has provided a level of patient care in advanced imaging and technology that surpasses most other rural facilities. Visit us online at www.peacehealth.org.

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