

For Immediate Release

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Learn More about Proposed Swedish/Stevens Hospital Affiliation

Questions will be addressed and proposed transition details will be shared at a public meeting on January 18, 6:30 p.m., at Stevens Hospital Auditorium, fourth floor

EDMONDS, WA – Jan. 4, 2010 – The public is invited to a community meeting held January 18, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., to learn more about the proposed affiliation between Stevens Hospital and Swedish. On Dec. 17, the Board of Commissioners for Public Hospital District #2 of Snohomish County approved non-binding terms for Swedish to lease and assume management of Stevens Hospital pending regulatory approvals and final agreements. A final and binding written agreement is expected shortly after the public meeting.

The proposed 30-year lease agreement will help Stevens Hospital expand, improve quality of care and offer more services than it could accomplish on its own. Supporting the priorities of a strategic plan developed in early 2009 with input from the community, the affiliation focuses on expanded services and programs, quality of care and safety, recruitment of additional high-quality physicians and clinical staff, financial performance and stability, community relationships, and the enhancement of Stevens Hospital's status as a preferred healthcare provider.

“Anyone concerned about the future of healthcare services in our community is welcome to attend the community meeting, said Michael Carter, Stevens Hospital CEO and president. “It’s natural to have questions about how this proposed change will affect Stevens Hospital and our role serving the community.”

Since the affiliation announcement was made last December, the questions below have been asked most frequently:

Will the name of the hospital change? *Yes, Swedish will likely be part of the name but the new name won't be determined until later.*

Will the levy tax rate go down because of the affiliation? *No. To supplement the tax money, Swedish intends to invest \$150 million for expanded services and facility upgrades. Future levies would have to be*

approved by voters. The owner of a \$285,000 house pays about \$44 a year in property taxes to the hospital district. Taxes contributed \$3.9 million of the \$151.9 million in 2008 operating revenue.

If Stevens Hospital is making money now, then why are any changes needed? *For long-term stability, Stevens Hospital needs to expand services and make facility improvements in order to stay competitive and meet the growing needs of the community.*

What will happen to the hospital commissioners and the hospital district? *The commissioners, and district, will remain and their approval will be required for changing service lines, labor contract changes, relocation of the hospital and other far-reaching decisions. The commissioners will begin a strategic planning process to address health needs in the community.*

“We are excited about this partnership,” said Cal Knight, president and chief operating officer of Swedish. “Stevens and Swedish have worked together for 18 years to make specialty healthcare more accessible and convenient for the residents of South Snohomish County, so it makes sense to collaborate more closely. Through a new affiliation, we will be better positioned to achieve our shared goals of increasing access to health care in the local community, enhancing the quality of care and reducing costs, all of which are critical in an era of healthcare reform.”

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About Swedish

Swedish is the largest, most comprehensive nonprofit health provider in the Greater Seattle area. It is comprised of three hospital campuses – First Hill, Cherry Hill and Ballard – a freestanding emergency department and ambulatory care center in Issaquah, Swedish Visiting Nurse Services, and the Swedish Physician Division – a network of more than 40 primary-care and specialty clinics located throughout the Puget Sound area. This fall, Swedish broke ground on a new medical office building and hospital in the Issaquah Highlands, as well as a medical office building and ambulatory center in Ballard. In addition to general medical and surgical care, Swedish is known as a regional referral center, providing specialized treatment in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer care, neuroscience, orthopedics, high-risk obstetrics, pediatric specialties, organ transplantation and clinical research. For more information, visit www.swedish.org.

About Stevens Hospital

Since 1964, Stevens Hospital has been committed to improving the health and well-being of the community through local, high-quality and compassionate healthcare services. Stevens Hospital offers a range of hospital services including cardiac and cancer care, obstetrics, mental health services, emergency services and state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging. In 2010, the community hospital received a five-star rating for the

treatment of stroke (two years in a row), pneumonia (two years in a row) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease from HealthGrades, the independent healthcare ratings company.

Stevens Hospital, licensed for 217 beds with a professional staff of 1,200-plus, serves patients from South Snohomish and North King Counties. More than 400 physicians have privileges. The Board of Commissioners for Public Hospital District #2 of Snohomish County, Washington, is responsible for oversight of the hospital and its facilities.

www.stevenshospital.org.