

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Susan Hoek
Supervisor, 4th District
Email: sue.hoek@co.nevada.ca.us

COUNTY OF NEVADA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Susan Hoek, District IV Supervisor**

SUBJECT: Certificate of Recognition Honoring Dr. Peter Van Houten and the Sierra Family Health Center's 40 Years of Service

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached certificate of recognition for Dr. Peter Van Houten and the Sierra Family Health Center, acknowledging their significant contribution to health care in Nevada County, especially North San Juan and the greater San Juan Ridge community.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

Forty years ago, in 1982, Dr. Peter Van Houten founded a rural private medical practice in a North San Juan offering full service family practice. He served in the practice as a full-time physician while serving as Medical Director and CEO. The practice had two physicians, two nurse practitioners who facilitated 7,000 medical patient visits a year, including round-the-clock after-hours calls.

In 1994, he donated his practice, founding Sierra Family Medical Clinic as a non-profit corporation. Dr. Van Houten oversaw the addition of integrated behavioral health and dental care on site while doubling overall capacity.

Over the years, Sierra Family Health Clinic has been a regional pioneer for providing integrated healthcare services, treatment of substance use disorders (including medication-assisted treatment for opioid disorders), training for behavioral health clinicians, telemedicine services, providing COVID testing and vaccine clinics.

In 2009, Dr. Van Houten received the California State Rural Health Association Rural Champion of the Year Award which is given annually to only one physician in California. In 2016 Sierra Family was awarded Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) status through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The clinic is an integral part of the community and, this month, is celebrating their forty years of service to the community.

Item initiated by: Sarah Holyhead, Administrative Analyst II

Approved by: Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board