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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	Contact: PeaceHealth
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PeaceHealth Appoints Jim Barnhart Implementation Leader for Integrated Medical Center Development

Friday Harbor, Wash. – PeaceHealth has appointed Jim Barnhart to lead the planning and implementation phase of building and operating a new Integrated Medical Center at Friday Harbor.

Jim Barnhart has served for nearly two decades as the CEO and Chief Mission Officer of PeaceHealth's Peace Harbor Hospital in Florence, Oregon. Under Barnhart's leadership, this Critical Access Hospital and its PeaceHealth Medical Group physicians have consistently achieved excellent clinical and service outcomes for their patients and community.

"Jim's extensive experience and achievements in leading a PeaceHealth Critical Access Hospital and serving a community much like ours will be invaluable assets in the planning and implementation of the new Integrated Medical Center," said Lenore Bayuk, chairperson of the San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 Board. "We are pleased to welcome Jim to the San Juan community."

Barnhart will report to Nancy Steiger, CEO and Chief Mission Officer of the PeaceHealth Whatcom Region, which includes St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, WA, and PeaceHealth Medical Group. He will begin working in this new role part-time on July 1, 2009, while transitioning from his responsibilities at Peace Harbor. He will assume his San Juan Island-based duties full-time in July 2010.

“Jim was the clear choice to lead this work, given the success he’s had guiding Peace Harbor Hospital since its opening in 1989,” said Steiger. “Jim’s strength is his commitment to quality, collaboration and community. We’re looking forward to the work we’ll do together in building the new Integrated Medical Center for residents of the San Juan County Public Hospital District #1.”

PeaceHealth is a Bellevue, WA-based not-for-profit healthcare system serving multiple rural and urban communities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, PeaceHealth has provided exceptional medicine and compassionate care to Northwest communities for more than a century, including serving the needs of small and remote communities through the operation of three successful Critical Access Hospitals. PeaceHealth annually receives national recognition for innovations in patient-centered care, patient safety and healthcare technology. Research published in the June 2008 edition of the Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety ranked PeaceHealth as one of the top five quality of care healthcare systems in the country, and the leading system in the West. PeaceHealth is frequently named as one of the region’s best employers. For more information, visit www.peacehealth.org.

San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 (SJCPHD#1) is the tax-supported agency mandated by Washington State law to provide healthcare services and facilities for residents and visitors of the Hospital District. The Hospital District provides clinic-based medical services at the Inter Island Medical Center in Friday Harbor. It also operates San Juan Island EMS which provides emergency medical services, critical care transport, and injury and accident prevention programs. SJCPHD#1 is comprised of San Juan Island, Town of Friday Harbor, Brown Island, Stuart Island, Johns Island, Speiden Island, Pearl Island and Henry Island in San Juan County, Washington. For more information on the IMC project, visit www.sjcommunityhospital.org.

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Attachment: photo of Jim Barnhart