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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Service Announcement

Southeastern District Health Department to Close Home Health & Hospice Division

Plans to phase out home care division announced

Pocatello – The Southeastern District Health Department announced its intent to phase out the provision of home health and hospice services to residents of Bannock, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Power counties. The home care division began in 1966, and was the first Medicare-certified program in southeast Idaho. In many counties, the health department was the only provider of home health and hospice services for many years.

In recent years, the changing regulatory demands, decreasing reimbursement for services, and increased competition from the private sector has made the ongoing provision of home care less feasible for the health department. The home health and hospice division will no longer be accepting any referrals for new patients, and plans to phase out the program completely by the end of December 2007.

The District Director and the Board of Health state that “the decision to phase out the home care division was not an easy one to make. We remain committed to caring for those patients we currently have on service, and will assist them as necessary in making the transition to another home care agency of their choice. We are proud of the service our dedicated employees have given over the last forty-two years in serving the home health and hospice needs of our member communities. Thousands of patients and families have benefited from receiving quality home care from our agency, and that’s something we can be proud of.”

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For further information regarding this release, please contact Mary Howell at the Southeastern District Health Department at 208-239-5288.