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**NEWS RELEASE** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ventura County Health Care Agency (VCHCA) Partners with Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and CHLA Medical Group (CHLAMG) to Begin Expanding Access to High Quality Pediatric Care

**VENTURA, CA**— As part of a comprehensive process to identify strategies that enhance our ability to deliver exceptional patient care, as well as attract and retain talent to best serve our community, VCHCA has established new relationships with regional partners of aligned vision and values.

Ventura County Health Care Agency and Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Children's Hospital Los Angeles Medical Group are excited to announce a strategic partnership that will leverage a regional approach to increase access and enhance the quality of local pediatric services in Ventura County, with an early focus on tertiary and quaternary care.

"We are thrilled to come alongside CHLA/CHLAMG, premier pediatric providers, to take the first step in a phased approach to ensure that children and families receive the best care, close to home, whether it be cancer care or pediatric neurology," said Barry Zimmerman, Director of the Ventura County Health Care Agency.

Over the past several months, through a Joint Oversight Committee, CHLA/CHLAMG and VCHCA engaged in high level discussions which lead to a formal partnership that allows both institutions to better coordinate and deliver care for patients at all levels of need, as well as continue exploring further opportunities for collaboration.

"We are proud to partner with Ventura County to provide Children's Hospital Los Angeles' world-class compassionate care to more children and families in California," said Paul S. Viviano, CHLA President and CEO. "This partnership will ensure that the most vulnerable young members across our community have the access they deserve to the services they need."

Ventura County Medical Center and Santa Paula Hospital will remain independent entities, operated by the County of Ventura Health Care Agency.

## **About Ventura County Health Care Agency**

VCHCA is a public health system, managed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, providing community based health care services in an innovative, integrated, and culturally competent manner. HCA encompasses, two full-service, acute care hospitals, 35 clinics, a Behavioral Health and Public Health Department, and a Knox Keene licensed Health Care Plan. VCHCA operates the Ventura County Medical Center, which is the West County's designated Level II Trauma Center, and is home to the first Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, as well as the only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in the County. For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.vchca.org">www.vchca.org</a>

## **About Children's Hospital Los Angeles**

Founded in 1901, Children's Hospital Los Angeles is the largest provider of care for children in Los Angeles County. Families travel from all 50 states and more than 90 countries so that their children can receive the very best care. The hospital's clinical teams treat patients ranging in age from newborn infants to young adults for everything from well-child visits to organ transplantation. It is ranked the top children's hospital in California as well as in the Pacific region, and fifth in the nation for clinical excellence by U.S. News & World Report in its prestigious Honor Roll of Best Children's Hospitals. Clinical care is led by physicians who are faculty members of the Keck School of Medicine of USC through an affiliation dating from 1932. It is home to the largest pediatric residency training program at a freestanding children's hospital of its kind in the western United States. Among top 10 children's hospitals for National Institutes of Health funding, The Saban Research Institute of Children's Hospital Los Angeles leads the field in innovative bench-to-bedside basic, translational and clinical research conducted in pediatrics. To learn more, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter, and visit our blog at CHLA.org/blog.

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