



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2009

Contact:

Ann Potempa, DHSS, (907) 269-7957, Cell (907) 230-4001, ann.potempa@alaska.gov;
Sarana Schell, DHSS, (907) 269-8041, Cell (907) 240-7462, sarana.schell@alaska.gov;
Hollie Fowler, director of sales and marketing for Prestige Care, Inc., (360) 735-7155,
hfowler@prestigecare.com

State agrees to new operator to run long-term care center

Prestige Care, Inc. to manage former Mary Conrad Center in Anchorage

(Anchorage, AK) — The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) today announced Prestige Care, Inc., will take over management of the Mary Conrad Center in Anchorage effective July 1, 2009.

“The search for a new manager for the former Mary Conrad Center was a fairly lengthy process to ensure we found the right fit for the center, one of the largest privately operated long-term care centers in the state,” said Bill Streur, DHSS Deputy Commissioner. “Prestige has a breadth of experience in nursing home care and rehabilitation. The company is committed to managing a quality program here, and we look forward to Prestige’s entry into Alaska’s health-care system.”

The former Mary Conrad Center is the first and only facility in Alaska managed by Prestige Care, a Washington-based company providing long-term and senior care since 1985. Prestige operates 45 other centers in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. The company has renamed Mary Conrad, calling it the Prestige Care and Rehabilitation Center of Anchorage.

“We are very much looking forward to partnering with the Anchorage community to provide outstanding care,” said Harold Delamarter, president and chief executive officer of Prestige Care, Inc. “Our mission to provide quality care guided by a compassionate heart is a philosophy of caring based on our core values of respect, integrity, commitment and trust. These values serve as the bedrock of all Prestige communities and Prestige Care and Rehabilitation Center of Anchorage is no exception.”

The state had been running the day-to-day operations at the Mary Conrad Center since December 18, 2008, when DHSS served a notice of immediate license revocation to RainDance Healthcare Group, Inc. The revocation followed a state inspection of the facility that revealed conditions that the state believed to present an “immediate danger to the health, safety or welfare” of the residents served in the 90-bed center. Immediately following the revocation, the department’s staff, along with the Long Term Care Ombudman’s Office, visited with each resident of the long-term care center, talked with family members and reviewed patient medical histories to provide the Mary Conrad residents with the best care possible while the state served as temporary manager.

###

DHSS is now on Twitter. Follow health updates at www.twitter.com/Alaska_DHSS.