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*For Immediate Release*

## **WestCare California to Hold its First Open House of the Residential Treatment Facility in Bakersfield**

**Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00pm - 2:00pm**

**WestCare California**

**2901 South "H" Street, Bakersfield**

WestCare California is excited to open the doors of its inpatient program to the public for an exclusive Open House. These facilities are not traditionally open for public gatherings but WestCare is encouraging all of those who are interested in learning more about its services to join them in this special event. Local dignitaries and members of the law enforcement community will be the honored service partners at this event. Without their involvement, the clients of the WestCare program would not be the productive and respectable members of the community that they have become. We are grateful for their support.

WestCare, a family of tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, provides a wide spectrum of health and human services in both residential and outpatient environments. Services include substance abuse and addiction treatment, homeless and runaway shelters, domestic violence treatment and prevention, and mental health programs. These services are available to adults, children, adolescents, and families. WestCare specializes in helping people traditionally considered difficult to treat, such as those who are indigent, have multiple disorders, or are involved with the criminal justice system.

The WestCare Bakersfield residential center currently provides treatment services to men only. This unique program provides treatment services to both state parolees, as well as non-violent inmates in a community correctional setting. The populations served at the program include those receiving services under Senate Bill 1453 (early completion of their sentence) Drug Treatment Furlough, and recently released parolees with substance abuse problems. This program is an effective tool to reducing recidivism, reducing incarceration costs, and assisting with the reduction of prison overcrowding. The program currently houses 62 males. These participants are able to receive treatment, transition services, family support, etc.

In discussing WestCare's services in Kern County, Fourth District Supervisor Watson comments, "I want to extend my congratulations and appreciation to WestCare California for the important services you provide to our community. The men's residential treatment program helps reduce substance abuse and recidivism rates, enabling your clients to seek stable and productive lives. Furthermore, the community benefits as your clients begin to make positive contributions to society, rather than adding to the burdens of law enforcement and social services."

The Open House will provide the community with an opportunity to tour the facility and to learn more about what the clients go through on their journey to a healthier life for themselves and their families. WestCare also provides out patient services in Bakersfield to further strengthen the client's commitment to their sobriety.

Food and refreshments will be available.

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