



For Immediate Release

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St. Vincent Family Health Center to Open In June

Primary care clinics unite and expand services for Lake County

Leadville, Colo. (April 19, 2020)—In a culmination of several years' work improving access to care, Rocky Mountain Family Practice (RMFP) and St. Vincent Medical Clinic will merge operations in June 2021. This innovative and forward-thinking move was inspired by the increased health care capacity of the new hospital, incoming specialty physicians, and new services, such as surgery, that will be offerings at the new hospital early this summer.

The new primary care office will be known as St. Vincent Family Health Center.

“We are concentrating on being where patients need us, when they need us, with the care they want,” says Brett Antczak, CEO of St. Vincent Health. “Our patients want more choices in primary care providers and physicians—and I am committed to making that happen in the new family health center.” SVH has interviewed and vetted numerous primary-care-physician candidates in the past six months and will continue to pursue a candidate who is the right fit for our community and who demonstrates a long-term interest in Leadville and Lake County.

Dr. Lisa Zwerdinger is currently a senior staff member at St. Vincent Health (SVH). As Chief Medical Officer, she has been an advocate for increased services and a key advisor in selecting new specialty and primary care physicians. Detailed information and introduction to these physicians will be coming soon.

Prior to June 1, St. Vincent Medical Clinic will move into the RMFP building at 735 Hwy. 24 South. Dr. Lisa and advance practice providers Amy King, certified physician assistant, Lauren Huffman and Kia Tamaki Harrold—both family nurse practitioners, along with all RMFP staff, will become employed by St. Vincent Health. The care patients have come to know at RMFP will continue seamlessly as St. Vincent Family Health Center. A clinic manager will be selected, to oversee the new family health center.



“All of my years as a doctor in Leadville have led to this moment,” says Dr. Lisa Zwerdlinger. “Unified health-care delivery, that values collaboration, breadth of services and depth in provider access, is exactly what Lake County needs at this time. I am so proud to work with St. Vincent Health and continue to care for my community.”

The merging is a deliberate move to promote alignment of resources and increased medical services. St. Vincent Family Health Center will provide primary care for patients from infancy to end-of-life. Family medicine and urgent care will continue to be offered at the health center. Additionally, 24/7 urgent care will be offered at St. Vincent Health’s new hospital.

“It just makes sense,” says SVH Chief Operating Officer, Corbin Logan. “The new St. Vincent Family Health Center encourages all of our experts to do what they do best. SVH departments such as human resources, accounting, facilities, patient access, information technology and environmental services will support St. Vincent Family Health Center operations and the physical building at 735 Hwy. 24 South.

St. Vincent Health and RMFP will communicate with patients in the coming weeks with more details about the merger. In the meantime, questions and comments may be addressed to Karen Onderdonk, Chief Branding Officer at St. Vincent Health at 719-486-7135 or konderdonk@stvincent.health, or CEO Brett Antczak at 719-486-7161 or bantczak@stvincent.health.

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About Rocky Mountain Family Practice

Dr. Lisa Zwerdlinger became a physician in Leadville, Colorado in 1998. She went on to open Rocky Mountain Family Practice (RMFP) in 2005. Since that time RMFP has grown to offer an outstanding health-care team. RMFP is known for excellence in standard of care using evidence based medicine. Dr. Lisa offers medical advising to the Lake County Public Health Agency, law enforcement, fire department, City of Leadville, Lake County, Public Schools, High Mountain Institute, and Colorado Mountain College. www.leadvillermfp.com

About St. Vincent Health

At 10,152 feet elevation in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains, St. Vincent Health serves the residents and visitors of Lake County and North America’s highest city of Leadville. Established in 1879 by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, the hospital has been in continuous operation since first providing care for the hardscrabble miners of early settlement days. Continuing the tradition of caring, the St. Vincent General Hospital District is currently constructing a new state-of-the-art hospital to open in 2021. The specialties/surgeons confirmed to join St. Vincent Health when the new hospital opens are: Cardiology, Dermatology, General Surgery, Ear Nose and Throat, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, and Pain Management. www.StVincent.Health