



For Immediate Release
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Hospital Continues to Identify Cost Savings

Plans underway to move the St. Vincent Family Health Center in the autumn of 2023

LEADVILLE COLO (March 6, 2023) St. Vincent Health (SVH) has continued identifying cost savings that will assist the hospital with its financial turnaround in 2023 and beyond. A recent development is that the St. Vincent Family Health Center (SVFHC) will relocate to the former hospital building known as the Legacy Building at 822 West 4th Street. This will happen on or around September 1, 2023.

The SVFHC has been located in the former Rocky Mountain Family Practice (RMFP) space at 735 HWY 24 South since June 2021, when Dr. Lisa Zwerdinger merged her practice with St. Vincent Health.

Prior to merging with Rocky Mountain Family Practice, St. Vincent Health operated a primary care clinic in the Legacy Building. Now that most hospital services are in the new hospital which opened in September 2021, the Legacy Building provides ample space to absorb the SVFHC while continuing to operate specialty clinics as well. Ruth Hart, Clinics Director at SVH, stated “Moving the Family Health Center has many benefits. The proximity of the hospital to the clinic will have a positive impact for both our patients and the hospital district.”

In 2015 the former hospital building was deemed as not being suitable for inpatient care due to concerns about the HVAC system and updated regulations for patient room standards. This led to plans to build the new hospital and remains true today. However, the building is appropriate for outpatient clinics and has been home to specialty clinics for several years. The work involved in opening the SVFHC in the Legacy Building will be mostly cosmetic as space in former clinical areas is converted to exam rooms.

Benefits to the move include:

Patients:

- Closer proximity to ancillary services such as lab and X-ray.
- Synergy for increased coordination of care between providers throughout a patient’s spectrum of care.

Hospital:

- Eliminating the expense of rent while increasing appropriate use of the former hospital.
- Higher reimbursement on the annual Medicare/Medicaid Cost Report due to the Legacy Building being utilized for clinic space.
- Ability to consolidate maintenance, environmental services, and IT services resulting in cost and manpower savings.
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St. Vincent Hospital is grateful to Dr. Lisa for renting the clinic space to SVFHC and looks forward to working with her as together we care for the people of Lake County. Though Dr. Lisa has opened her private practice, she continues to serve as a Hospitalist for inpatients at SVH. More information will be forthcoming about the SVFHC relocation as September, 2023 approaches.