

Missoula County Media Release

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Partnership Health Center, Mineral Community Hospital Announce Changes to Medical Care in Superior

MISSOULA – Starting in 2019, Mineral Community Hospital will offer Superior and Mineral County residents primary medical care at its clinic, freeing up resources for Partnership Health Center to expand its behavioral health and dental services in the area.

For the past five years, PHC offered medical, behavioral and dental/oral health care in Superior. Transferring primary medical care services to MCH will allow PHC to hire additional staff to double its current behavioral health capacity, as well as offer expanded hours at its dental clinic starting this fall.

“We are excited to see the hospital add primary medical care back to its array of services,” said Partnership Executive Director Laurie Francis. “The conversations between PHC Superior and Mineral Community Hospital have been about serving community and individual needs. Both organizations believe this is the best way to be available to folks in the community and support a strong hospital presence, now and into the future. PHC looks forward to expanding services in the areas of behavioral health and dental care over the next months.”

PHC patients in the Superior area have options available to them. Patients can transfer care to the Mineral Community Hospital Clinic or maintain primary care through PHC in Missoula. MCH and PHC staff members are available to support evaluating health care options in identifying the best next course of action for patients and to assist with record transfer requests.

“We are so appreciative of the wonderful services provided by Partnership Health Center in Mineral County,” said MCH Chief Executive Officer Steve McNeece. “This collaborative effort will allow PHC to expand mental health and dental services, and MCH to expand to offer primary medical care. The leadership and staff from PHC have been outstanding to work with on this effort, and we are very excited for the expansion of mental, oral and primary care that will occur from our shared efforts and cooperation.”

PHC and MCH are actively partnering to ensure patients have ongoing access to affordable, comprehensive medical care and that these efforts are well coordinated to support Mineral County residents. To help with the transition, MCH will hire additional staff to accommodate for anticipated medical care growth, including current key PHC clinical staff members Laurel Chambers PA-C, Jane Whetzel FNP and Ronald Black MD.

Both organizations look forward to fostering a thriving health care system in the Superior area and are committed to working on a seamless transition for the community. To further this goal, PHC and MCH

will host an informal public meeting in November, details on which will be announced in an upcoming media release. The meeting is open to the public and will be an opportunity to ask leadership regarding these changes.

These changes only apply to the Superior area. Partnership's Missoula-area and Seeley-Swan clinics will continue to provide integrated healthcare services for all.

For more information, visit www.partnershiphealthcenter.com and www.mineralcommunityhospital.com.

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Partnership Health Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) administered through the Missoula City-County Health Department. The center provides medical, dental, pharmacy and ancillary services to more than 10,000 patients from Missoula and surrounding rural counties.