

# Missoula County Media Release

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## **Partnership Health Center to Expand Integrated Behavioral Health Services with Grant**

Partnership Health Center will expand its integrated behavioral health services thanks to a \$167,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Integrated behavioral health is an evidence-based model for improving lifelong health and well-being. IBH focuses on coordinating medical and behavioral health services to improve overall patient health outcomes. The grant will allow PHC to add IBH-trained psychologist, Sarah. A. Potts, Ph.D., as its director of behavioral health.

“We know that patients, including those from underserved populations, often have physical health challenges that are closely related with their mental or behavioral health,” said PHC Director of Innovation Mary Jane Nealon. “These funds present an exciting opportunity for our organization to bolster our well-established efforts to address enormous health issues in the broader Missoula community, including suicidality, depression, anxiety, opioid use and other substance use disorders.”

When a patient visits PHC, their primary care provider works closely with behavioral health providers, such as licensed clinical social workers, to ensure the patient’s full range of health needs are properly addressed. This innovative model of care-coordination, focused on treating the whole person, continues to yield improvements for both physical and mental health among various patient populations. Potts, who starts Sept. 1, will oversee the coordination of this process, along with all aspects of behavioral health services at PHC.

For more information, call Nealon at 406-258-4165.

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*Partnership Health Center is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Missoula County. PHC, a Federally Qualified Health Center, exists to promote optimal health and well-being for all through comprehensive, patient-focused, accessible and equitable care. They have five locations in Missoula and satellite locations in Seeley Lake and Superior.*