

# THE UNION

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## Western Sierra to open Auburn health center

Grass Valley-based Western Sierra Medical Clinic will open a comprehensive health center in Auburn, offering health care services to the community — and expanding its mission to Placer County.

The new health center, at 12183 Locksley Lane, Suite 107, will open in this summer, after receiving the necessary local and state approvals and undergoing a modest renovation.

The health center is located in a business park with several other nonprofit organizations, including Community Recovery Resources (CoRR) and PRIDE Industries.

“We’ve been considering expanding into Auburn and central Placer County for a while, especially with the increased demand for health services in the region,” said Western Sierra Medical CEO Scott McFarland.

“We have been looking for a good location that fits our needs, as well as those of our current and future patients that live in the Auburn area.”

Western Sierra Medical Clinic, a nonprofit community health center, has about 1,000 patients from the Auburn community receiving care at its Grass Valley site in 2015. McFarland estimates the new Auburn health center could eventually accommodate about 21,000 patient visits per year.

The health center will open with medical, behavioral health and substance disorder services, said Western Sierra Chief Medical Officer Robert “Simi” Lyss. Community Recovery Resources, a substance abuse treatment partner in Nevada County, will also assist with Western Sierra’s substance abuse treatment services in Auburn.

“We’re looking forward to bringing comprehensive and high-quality care to the community, and are currently evaluating other health care services that will be offered at the new Auburn health center,” McFarland said.

The Auburn health center will open with two to three clinicians. Western Sierra clinicians focus on the cause of health care issues rather than simply treating the effects of the medical problem.

“We want to address the reasons why someone is getting sick, especially if it’s a chronic problem,” Lyss said. “We want to focus on the whole person and their overall wellness.”

Construction to remodel the 2,200-square-foot building will begin in the next few weeks, and take about two months, McFarland said.

The Auburn health center will be the fourth for Western Sierra, the largest outpatient provider in Nevada and Sierra counties with 20,000 patients per year.

In December 2014, Western Sierra moved into a 19,000-square-foot health center in Grass Valley. The health center, about twice as large as the previous clinic, allowed the nonprofit to expand services – and is the primary location for most of Western Sierra’s Auburn-area patients.

Western Sierra also has a health clinic in Downieville, with a third center opening during the next few months in Penn Valley.

“We know there are many health care needs in the Auburn community, and we’re committed to providing high-quality care and numerous services to its residents. We are honored to part of the community and have this opportunity to build on the great work being done to serve the residents of Placer County,” McFarland said.