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Remodeling to begin soon for new clinic in Auburn

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A comprehensive health center that focuses on the cause of medical issues, rather than only the effects, will be opening in Auburn this summer.

Western Sierra Health Center will be located at 12183 Locksley Lane, Suite 107 near Community Recovery Resources and PRIDE Industries.

Western Sierra is a non-profit community health center currently serving about 1,000 Auburn residents at its Grass Valley site.

"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," said Scott McFarland, Western Sierra Medical CEO.

McFarland estimates the new Auburn health center could eventually accommodate more than 21,000 patients.

Construction to remodel the 2,200-square-foot building will begin in the next few weeks.

The Auburn health center will open with two to three clinicians offering family practice, behavioral health services and possibly pediatrics.

"As we grow, we will con-

tinue to develop additional services," said McFarland.

One such service includes partnering with Community Recovery Resources, a substance abuse treatment organization. Pharmaceutical and other health services are expected to become available as the clinic expands.

Western Sierra clinicians focus on the cause rather than only treating the effects of the medical problem.

"If there's an issue with diabetic residents, we will focus on exercise habits, diet, counseling..." said McFarland. "We try to solve the issue and find out why it is there."

Robert "Simi" Lyss, chief medical officer, added, "We want to focus on the whole person and their overall wellness."

Western Sierra treats patients regardless of income or insurance coverage. The clinic accepts HMOs, private insurance coverage and government programs including Medicare, Medi-Cal and has been approved by the Veterans Administration to treat veterans.

"We provide every insurance type," said McFarland.

"We know there are many health care needs in

the Auburn community," added McFarland. "We are honored to be a part of the community and have this opportunity to build on the great work being done to serve the residents of Placer County."

The organization also has health clinics in Grass Valley and Downieville and will be opening another clinic in Penn Valley this year. For more information on the clinic, visit wsmcmed.org.



Western Sierra Medical Clinic will open in Auburn this summer offering a range of health services.

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