

THE UNION

July 4, 2016

Dr. Heather Lucas-Ross tapped for top job at Western Sierra Medical Clinic in Grass Valley



Dr. Heather Lucas-Ross, a community leader and Nevada Union High School graduate, has been promoted to Chief Medical Officer of Grass Valley-based Western Sierra Medical Clinic, the largest outpatient health provider in the region.

Lucas-Ross, who has been the health center's Chief Physician for the past year, will oversee all health and wellness-related operations for Western Sierra. She replaces interim Chief Medical Officer Dr. Robert "Simi" Lyss.

"Dr. Lucas-Ross exemplifies who we are and our never-ending commitment to providing high-quality care to the community," said Western Sierra CEO Scott McFarland. "She has the medical experience and is always looking for opportunities to improve the health services provided to the community at Western Sierra."

Lucas Ross, who was raised in Grass Valley, earned her medical degree from the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, and completed her Family Medicine residency at Sutter Health in Sacramento. She has extensive medical experience, including women's health.

"As a long-time resident of the community, I am deeply committed to providing the best medical care possible," said Lucas-Ross, who joined Western Sierra in September 2007. "We continue to expand to meet the ever-changing needs of our community, from newborns to seniors who often have more complex medical needs."

Western Sierra Medical Clinic is the largest medical outpatient provider in Nevada and Sierra counties, serving about one of every four residents in the region. The nonprofit has greatly expanded its services during the past year, with the addition of obstetrics-gynecology, an on-site pharmacy and the opening of an Urgent Care clinic to the public at the new Grass Valley health center.

The clinic will soon open health centers in Penn Valley and Auburn, the first for Western Sierra in Placer County.

“We want to offer even better access with convenient locations, and provide appointments as quick as possible for a variety of medical needs, from specialty to dentistry and counseling,” she said.

Lucas-Ross knows the community well. She has been active in several community organizations, including music and local theatre performances.

“I care about where I live, especially because I grew up here, and it’s a privilege to live and work in this community,” she said.

Lyss, a former regional medical director for Kaiser Permanente, who was retired, had a critical role as a consultant in the development and planning of the Grass Valley health center that opened in December 2014.

“We greatly appreciate Dr. Lyss’ insight, leadership and willingness to help oversee the medical staff while we looked for the best-possible Chief Medical Officer available,” McFarland said.

“After a lengthy search and much consideration, we have the most skilled candidate in Dr. Lucas-Ross.”