

WESTERN SIERRA MEDICAL CLINIC PROMOTES DR. HEATHER LUCAS-ROSS TO CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Community leader, longtime resident to oversee clinical operations

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

Dr. 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.”

Dr. 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.”

“I want to make sure that the staff and medical providers have a rewarding, fulfilling and meaningful work experience, and I always stress the importance of a healthy balance between home and work.” Lucas-Ross said. “We’re all part of a team, and have one primary goal – the community’s health and wellness, and that begins with us.”

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.

Western Sierra – which provides comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health care – also has a health center in Downieville. 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.

Dr. 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.

Dr. 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.”

About Western Sierra Medical Clinic

Western Sierra Medical Clinic provides comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health care in Nevada, Sierra and Yuba counties. Founded in 1975, Western Sierra emphasizes preventive care, education and empowering patients to make informed decisions. Western Sierra is the largest outpatient health care provider in Nevada County, where a new full-service health center is meeting the growing demands in the community. Western Sierra Medical Clinic will expand later this year into Placer County, with a comprehensive health center in Auburn. You can learn more about Western Sierra Medical Clinic at www.wsmcmed.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WesternSierraMedicalClinic.