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Western Sierra Medical Clinic to unveil Penn Valley branch in April

The Western Sierra Medical Clinic is experiencing some delays in launching a new facility in Penn Valley — but hospital officials said they expect progress to pick up promptly.

“When you are retrofitting the building, it takes a lot of input from electrical engineering and structural engineering...” said Scott McFarland, chief executive officer of the clinic. “The longer it takes in the pre-planning phase, the better the outcome.”

The center was originally slated to be in operation by the end of 2015, but McFarland said he is now shooting for an opening day in spring.

“We are always the eternal optimists,” he said.

Cheryl Rubin, the planning and development director for the center, said the clinic has started to accept bids from local contractors and that they hope to unveil the Penn Valley facility in April.

“We wish we had been open right now. It took longer than we hoped,” said Rubin. “When you do a retrofit, there is some complications of pulling all the plans together.” The nonprofit medical organization announced in September that they would be adding a new 3,650-square-foot facility in Penn Valley to offer a more convenient option for patients who live in that community.

The news brought enthusiastic responses from local officials and residents as soon as it hit, many praising the organization for helping to grow the local economy and for providing residents with faster medical services.

The new center, located on 10544 Spenceville Road, will be right across from a business center and the Penn Valley Fire Station.

It will provide primary care, pediatrics, dental and specialist services, and will be equipped with an onsite pharmacy.

The clinic accepts Medicare, Medi-Cal, CMSP, Family Pact and most commercial insurance plans. In addition, officials said Western Sierra offers Medicare patients a fee based on their ability to pay for care.

McFarland attended a town hall meeting in Penn Valley Tuesday to provide updates on the progress of the clinic.

“We are very enthusiastic about serving that community,” said Rubin.

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