

The Union

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Nevada County health providers partner up to serve patients

Two Nevada County health-care providers are teaming up for a unique partnership to benefit patients, all under one roof.

Western Sierra Medical Center, the leading nonprofit provider of primary care to county residents, and Community Recovery Resources, the region's primary provider of substance abuse treatment services, announce the opening of a medical clinic operated by Western Sierra and located within the CoRR facility.

The clinic is believed to be the first ever federally qualified health clinic to be located at a substance abuse and mental health treatment program.

"We are changing the way health-care services are delivered and creating a one-stop solution for families," said Warren Daniels, CoRR's chief executive officer. "In partnering with WSMC, we have two missions but one purpose: wellness for individuals and their families."

Rather than navigating multiple locations and systems for primary care, mental health services, or recovery services, people will find these services in a single setting at CoRR's Grass Valley campus at 180 Sierra College Drive. The clinic is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We are excited about this innovative partnership with CoRR. We strongly believe in delivering comprehensive services to people at one location to help improve their health and quality of life. We look forward to collaborating and making a difference in our community," said Scott McFarland, chief executive officer of Western Sierra Medical Center.

Integrated health care, including primary care, behavioral health and specialty services like substance abuse treatment is emerging as a key strategy to enhance patient experience, improve outcomes and reduce health-care costs.

Ariel Lovett, CoRR's deputy director, said, "Integrating care is vital to addressing all the health-care needs of individuals and families in our community. It's also an important and true message that behavioral health care is part of health care. It's great to work with WSMC to make this happen at the campus."

CoRR's campus is the first of its kind in the nation, as a wellness center focused on substance abuse recovery and mental health that offers outpatient and residential programs, along with

supportive housing and child development services — all focused on families. Now, two exam rooms, along with a nurse's station and doctors' offices, will be occupied by WSMC.

“This partnership makes it easier for people with substance abuse and chronic pain conditions to get the primary health-care services they need to improve their overall health,” said Dr. Glenn Thiel, chief medical officer at Western Sierra Medical Center. “CoRR provides high-quality services to our community, and we are pleased to work with their professionals to better the lives of local residents.”

A truly multi-disciplinary team of counselors, therapists, social workers, nurses and doctors (both primary care and specialties, such as psychiatric) will collaborate toward patient care. WSMC provides services including primary care, pediatrics, teen clinic, case management, vaccinations, women's health, family planning and chronic disease management. CoRR provides comprehensive substance abuse treatment and mental-health services, including outpatient counseling, therapy, adolescent services and ancillary services such as parenting and anger management.

“Access is the key word. We want to maintain and build on a high level of quality care while continually searching for innovative ways to support individuals and families toward better health. We're confident this partnership will benefit people in our community and potentially create a model for others,” Daniels said.

To make an appointment, call the Western Sierra Medical Center at 530-274-9762 or CoRR at 530-273-9541.