

St. Vincent Family Health Center to Open In June 2021

- In a culmination of several years' as partners improving access to care, Rocky Mountain Family Practice (RMFP) and St. Vincent Medical Clinic will merge operations in June 2021.
- Integrating the 2 clinics was inspired by the increased health-care capacity of the new hospital, incoming specialty physicians, and new services, such as surgery, that will be offerings early this summer.
- The new primary care office will be known as St. Vincent Family Health Center.
- Dr. Lisa Zwerdlinger is currently a senior staff member at St. Vincent Health (SVH). As Chief Medical Officer, she has been an advocate for increased services and a key advisor in selecting new specialty and primary care physicians.
- Dr. Lisa Zwerdlinger is gifting the value and operational strength of her family medicine practice to St. Vincent Health.

"I came to Leadville because I had a mission. That was to deliver high-quality healthcare using evidence-based medicine to the people of Lake County. Because they deserve it," says Dr. Zwerdlinger. "By gifting my practice, I leave a legacy and have the assurance that people will be cared for long past my departure. Lake County has been very kind to me. I'd like to give back."

- Prior to June 1, St. Vincent Medical Clinic will move into the RMFP building at 735 Hwy. 24 South.
- SVH continues to search for a physician to replace the vacancy opened by Dr. Petry's departure in 2020. Many candidates have been interviewed and vetted in the past six months in search of someone who is the right fit for the community and who demonstrates a long-term interest in Leadville and Lake County. We have made 3 job offers, 2 of the physician's spouses decided that Leadville was not the right place for them, and 1 provider had an issue with his license and we needed to rescind the offer.
- Dr. Zwerdlinger and advance practice providers Amy King, certified physician assistant, and Lauren Huffman and Kia Tamaki Harrold—both family nurse practitioners—along with all RMFP staff, will become employed by St. Vincent Health. Dr. Zwerdlinger's clinic building and medical equipment will be leased and eventually purchased by SVH.

- Jason Wright a Physician Assistant (PA) will be joining the Family Health Center as its newest provider in June. Jason is a fellowship trained patient focused Certified Physician Assistant with proven strengths in Aerospace Medicine, Acute Patient Care, Internal Medicine, Orthopedics, GYN, and Pediatrics. His 15 year medical career began as an active duty PA in the Army.
- The care patients have come to know at RMFP will continue seamlessly as St. Vincent Family Health Center. A clinic manager will be selected, to oversee the new family health center.
- As RMFP does now, St. Vincent Family Health Center will provide primary care for patients from infancy to end-of-life.
- Family medicine and urgent care will continue to be offered at the health center. Additionally, 24/7 urgent care will be offered at St. Vincent Health's new hospital.
- St. Vincent Health and RMFP will communicate with patients in the coming weeks with more details about the merger. In the meantime, questions and comments may be addressed to Karen Onderdonk, Chief Branding Officer at St. Vincent Health at 719-486-7135 or konderdonk@stvincent.health, or CEO Brett Antczak at 719-486-7161 or bantczak@stvincent.health.