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Dignity Health Arizona Expands into the City of Maricopa

Expansion includes land purchase and development of an urgent care center

Phoenix, AZ, -- Sept. 12, 2012 – Dignity Health Arizona formally announced plans for two new projects within the City of Maricopa. These efforts will expand urgent care services for residents in northern Pinal County and provide much needed additional resources for the community.

The first facility to open will be an Urgent Care Center located in a local retail center. The leasing details are still being finalized and will be announced in the next few weeks. The center is expected to open in early 2013. There are currently three other Dignity Health Urgent Care facilities in the East Valley located in Ahwatukee, Gilbert, and Queen Creek.

The clinic, which will be staffed with board certified/eligible physicians and registered nurses, will be able to care for patients of all ages and will have on-site radiology and lab capabilities. The Urgent Care Center will be open from 12p.m. to 9 p.m., every day of the year including holidays.

The Maricopa site will offer the Call Ahead program beginning at 7 a.m. Patients can call ahead while waiting in the comfort of their home until the facility opens. Staff will then call when it is their turn to be seen by the physician.

“People all over the Valley trust our Urgent Care Centers because of the high quality of care they receive from our talented staff,” said Tim Bricker, president and CEO of Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers. “For every day health problems that can happen at any time, our Urgent Care Centers are the right fit for the entire family.”

On Sept. 4, the City of Maricopa Council took action to launch the planning phase for the second health care facility. The Council approved the Minor Land Division plan map associated with the purchase of a new hospital site. “I welcome Dignity Health and thank them for their investment in our community,” said Maricopa Mayor Christian Price. “Dignity Health’s presence strengthens Maricopa’s health care sector and will provide jobs throughout all of central Arizona.”

Dignity Health has purchased 18.56 acres at the intersection of Maricopa Road (State Route 347) and Smith-Enke Road with the intent to build a free-standing emergency hospital. Initial plans call for a 34,800 square-foot, two story hospital with 22 emergency department treatment rooms, two surgical suites, four patient beds, and outpatient imaging. Dignity Health will have invested approximately \$33million at the completion of the first phase of the project. The timing of construction has not yet been determined, but will likely be initiated in 2016.

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“The expansion of our services into northern Pinal County will help us provide more integrated care for patients throughout the area,” said Linda Hunt, president and CEO of Dignity Health Arizona. “We now treat many of these patients at both Chandler Regional Medical Center and our Urgent Care Center in Ahwatukee, so this expansion will provide the same high quality of care even closer to home.”

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the City of Maricopa was the 19th largest city in Arizona with more than 43,000 residents. It has been one of the most rapidly growing communities in the country, increasing from 1,500 residents in 2000 to 43,482 a decade later. The economic downturn dramatically slowed development in this area, but economic projections forecast continued growth in this region of Arizona.

In May 2012, Dignity Health announced its new campus in the West Valley that will be anchored by a 60,000 square-foot hospital. The initial \$44 million investment for the campus will include construction of an emergency department, a 24-bed inpatient hospital with two operating rooms, and dedicated space for diagnostic services. It is expected to open in early 2014.

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About Dignity Health Arizona

Dignity Health Arizona is comprised of three acute care hospitals, Chandler Regional Medical Center, Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, and St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center. It also includes the St. Joseph’s Medical Group, three Urgent Care Centers in the East Valley, a new hospital to be developed in the West Valley and co-ownership of Mercy Care Plan, which provides health care coverage for members enrolled in AHCCCS, the State’s Medicaid program. St. Joseph’s is home to a Creighton University School of Medicine campus. In addition, the organization has majority ownership in two specialty hospitals, the OASIS Hospital and the Arizona Orthopedic Surgical Hospital, eight outpatient surgery centers, as well as Simon Med Imaging (26 free-standing imaging centers) and a medical relationship with MinuteClinic at 10 CVS/pharmacy retail stores.

East Valley Urgent Care Center Locations

- Ahwatukee (480) 728-4000 | 4545 East Chandler Blvd. (Southwest corner of 46th Street and Chandler Blvd.)
- Gilbert (480) 728-4100 | 1501 North Gilbert Road (South of Baseline Road)
- Queen Creek (480) 728-6000 | 7205 South Power Road (South of Pecos Road)

For assistance in finding a doctor who practices with Dignity Health, please call ResourceLink at **(877) 728-5414**.