

Twin Falls Times News, Thursday, June 24, 2010 – by Nate Poppino

Boise facility will help manage Canyon View

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center will bring in a Boise company to help manage its behavioral-treatment facility, hospital officials announced Wednesday evening.

Intermountain Hospital will begin providing management and operations support for St. Luke's Canyon View Behavioral Health Services on July 15, according to a press release. The initial partnership will run for two years.

The 28-bed Canyon View will remain a department of St. Luke's Magic Valley, with both companies working together to increase bed availability, enhance the quality and scope of the facility's services and pursue "organizational efficiencies and effective business processes," the release states. Intermountain was brought in "As a way to enhance the clinical quality (of) and expand regional access to the psychiatric services offered at Canyon View," stated interim St. Luke's Magic Valley CEO Mike Reno.

Intermountain has provided psychiatric and substance-abuse services to residents of southern Idaho, eastern Oregon and northern Nevada for 30 years.

"We believe that together we can develop an expanded continuum of quality, effective psychiatric services for residents of Twin Falls and central Idaho," stated Intermountain CEO Brent Bryson.

Canyon View, the only large psychiatric facility of its type in south-central Idaho, has already seen a couple of changes since St. Luke's acquired it in 2006.

Officials closed its inpatient adolescent unit in 2007, citing a lack of demand for that service that hobbled care for the few patients who used it.

St. Luke's last year made sweeping changes to Canyon View's safety procedures, including installing 31 new security cameras and changing patient-contact rules, after state inspectors determined the facility was unable to supervise patients and protect them from sexual harassment. A Twin Falls County jury this May convicted David Knutsen, 29, a registered sex offender, on four counts of sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult following a January 2009 incident at Canyon View.