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The Idaho Statesman

Boise, Idaho

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

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Page 1 of 1

New Meridian hospital means more local beds devoted to mental health care

A company based in Tennessee plans to open a new 72-bed psychiatric hospital in Meridian early next year.

That hospital, owned by Haven Behavioral Healthcare, will drastically increase access to inpatient mental health care for the Treasure Valley.

Ada County currently has about 200 inpatient psychiatric beds for adults, adolescents and children combined, according to local hospitals. About 140 of those are for adults -- so the new hospital will add 50 percent more capacity for adult patients.

The hospital will open at 2131 S. Bonito Way in Meridian. That building is currently occupied by Vibra Hospital of Boise, a long-term acute-care care hospital that is slated to move to a new location.

"The growing need for safe, specialized psychiatric services in Idaho is outpacing the national rate, and we feel privileged to bring Haven's clinically-proven approach to those who need it in Treasure Valley," Kathy Bolmer, president and chief operating officer of Haven said in a news release. "Severe mental health issues are indiscriminate and require an individualized, holistic approach. Our care teams are dedicated to improving the quality of life for the patients entrusted to our care."

The new hospital will have more than 200 employees, with four to six psychiatrists seeing patients when the hospital is at full capacity. The hospital also is staffed with specialist physicians, social workers, therapists and other providers. The company has six other hospitals in the U.S. -- in Arizona, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Asked whether the hospital will take patients who don't have health insurance, the company responded: "All free-standing acute psychiatric hospitals are obligated by federal law to take patients who are experiencing a life-threatening psychiatric emergency, regardless of ability to pay and if the facility has capability and capacity."

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