

# The Hertel Report



## **NEW FREESTANDING ER FOR DIGNITY HEALTH ARIZONA**

The new location on Power Road, The Dignity Health Arizona General Hospital Emergency Room, may be just the first move into Mesa territory. Late in 2015, Dignity Health filed development plans with the city of Mesa to open a new 50bed hospital and ER in the spring of 2017. "Mesa is a growing city and we're certainly looking at that," said Lynne Reaves, director of communications for Dignity Health Arizona. "Our main objective is to provide excellent and convenient care throughout Maricopa County."

Last year, Dignity Health and Adeptus Health announced a partnership under the name "Arizona General Hospital" to expand the healthcare providers' market footprint in emergency medical care. Linda Hunt, president and CEO of Dignity Health Arizona, said the new Mesa ER supports that strategy.

"We are focused on providing patients with the best and easiest access to care of any healthcare system in Arizona and this new facility will help achieve that goal."

## **WESTAGE DEVELOPMENT**

On March 10, Westgate Healthcare Campus broke ground at the intersection of 99th and Glendale avenues. The \$30 million project, the brainchild of radiologist and Simon Med founder Dr. John Simon, is designed to eventually include a 290,000 square foot comprehensive healthcare campus comprised of five buildings. A master planned community, the campus is expected to be home to community medicine, surgery centers, long-term care operators and skilled nursing. The new complex joins other healthcare oriented neighbors including: Dignity Health St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center, Banner Estrella Medical Center and Midwestern University.

## **BANNER'S TUCSON GROWTH**

Integrated models and clinics that provide patients with a collaborative medical team to meet their healthcare needs including basic behavioral health services and programs are proving successful. Open since early February, Banner's Whole Health Clinic in Tucson provides individual, group and family therapy, case management and referrals, peer support services, psychiatric evaluation, medication monitoring, comprehensive physical health assessment and care, lab and pharmacy services, vocational support, benefit eligibility assessment and enrollment assistance, substance abuse services and referrals, court ordered treatment monitoring, and family psychoeducation and support groups.

## **NEW KINDRED HOSPITAL OPENS IN DOWNTOWN**

Kindred Transitional Care is a new 120bed, transitional care center located in Phoenix at 18th

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Street and Van Buren. Specializing in short-term nursing and rehabilitation, Kindred's new downtown facility opened at the same time Curahealth LLC announced its purchase of 12 Kindred long-term acute care hospitals. The \$27.5 million purchase includes two Arizona Kindred hospitals located in Peoria and Midtown Phoenix.

The deal is expected to close in the third quarter of 2016, the same time Dignity Health East Valley Rehabilitation Center in Chandler is expected to open. The 50 bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Chandler is a joint venture between Kindred Healthcare and Dignity Health.

## **UA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PHOENIX ACCREDITATION**

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) granted the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix provisional accreditation in February after issuing warnings last summer indicating the medical school could face possible probation or loss of accreditation.

*"This is an important step toward full accreditation and we were confident that the measures the college and University took to address the questions from the LCME were more than sufficient. I am ex-*

## **St. Luke's Health Initiative is now Vitalyst Health Foundation**

St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI) has changed its name to Vitalyst Health Foundation. The non-profit retained its identity after it was formed with funding from the sale of the not-for-profit St. Luke's Health System to the for-profit IASIS, but reportedly faced frequent confusion from consumers.

"Since 1996, the foundation has been completely independent of the St. Luke's Health System, and also does not have any religious affiliation. Yet there is not a week that goes by that we don't field some vendor call about hospital-related supplies and/ or the provision of direct medical services," stated the organization in its announcement.

The new name and brand is designed to better convey the organization's advocacy goals listed below:

- Increase access to care and coverage, because Arizonans with coverage and care achieve better well-being and health than those who do not.
- Promote healthy community design policies and practices, because health is created where we live, work and play.
- Build community capacity that improves the effectiveness of community-based organizations, because dynamic and healthy communities are based on civic participation that propels policy and systems change.

## **Capital Lawn Crowd Cheers On KidsCare Budget Addition**

Advocates call for legislators to reject a state budget that doesn't include restoration of [KidsCare](#)

Arizona Rep. Regina Cobb, R-Kingman, at the KidsCare news conference Monday, April 11, 2016

The lunch hour news conference for KidsCare at the Arizona State Capital on Monday included one primary call to action: Tell your legislator and Senate President Andy Biggs to include KidsCare in the state's budget.

"We speak with a unified message," said Dana Wolfe Naimark, president and CEO of the Children's Action Alliance. "Use your vote," she called to Arizona legislators, "Use your leadership," she called to Senate President Andy Biggs, "We're counting on you."

Enrollment in Arizona's version of the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP was frozen during

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the Great Recession and although a House Bill to unfreeze enrollment passed by a 47-12 vote, it was never assigned to committee by Biggs, ending the legislation's bid to be heard in the Senate.

Donald Smith, president and CEO of CopperPoint Insurance Companies called out his GOP affiliation and his support of KidsCare during his comments to the crowd of around 100 gathered in Arizona legislators' front lawn at the state capital. "I'm a lifelong Republican," said Smith, who also serves as the board chair of the Valley of the Sun United Way. "Limited government doesn't mean no government."

When concerns regarding KidsCare's fiscal impact on the budget were raised, supporters were quick to clarify the program was budget neutral through 2017 due to 100 percent federal funding and included a trigger that automatically would limit or freeze enrollment if federal funding fell short.

Biggs told Ted Simon on Arizona PBS Horizon April 6, that there's no guarantee that KidCare would end because of a lack of future federal funding. That once benefits are provided it's hard to pull them back. "You can have all the triggers you want, but when you have a constituency the triggers don't mean anything."