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PEAK VISTA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS ADDRESSES PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE

Colorado Springs, Colo. – As of 2016, the health care industry lacked 20,000 primary care physicians according to statistics from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the deficit is only projected to grow. Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista) is taking key steps for tackling the physician and provider shortages and addressing patient care access gaps.

- The Family Medicine Residency (FMR) program was established in 2016 as a post-graduate clinical training of residents. The three-year program, accredited through the Accreditation Counsel of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), emphasizes in several interdisciplinary primary care clinical training areas – from outpatient pediatric and family medicine to gynecology and geriatric care. The FRM program receives support from local hospitals and specialty physicians. Peak Vista’s FMR program graduated its first class of Residents in June 2019. Out of eight Residents, five chose to stay within the Colorado Springs community and one of them is a full-time provider within Peak Vista.
- Peak Vista’s Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Primary Care Fellowship was established in 2015 and follows a format recognized by the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center (ANCC) and is designed around problem-based learning. Fellows can train in both the classroom and clinical setting before rotating among other Peak Vista health center locations during the latter part of the program. As board-certified Nurse Practitioners, Fellows can care for patients in need of primary care with the number of patients being served steadily increasing in line with the program curriculum. Peak Vista has seen an 80% retention rate and overall satisfaction and success amongst fellows.

Peak Vista will continue to make waves to address the physician shortage and retain physicians in order to boost the economy within the Pikes Peak and East Central regions of Colorado. “The provider shortage is fundamentally a patient care access issue and we are determined to be a part of the solution and break down barriers for our growing patient population,” comments Peak Vista’s President & CEO, Pam McManus. Peak Vista prides itself on providing high-quality whole person care and instilling that model within Residents and Fellows.

About Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide exceptional health care to people facing access barriers through clinical programs and education. Established in 1971, Peak Vista offers primary medical and dental care that incorporates behavioral health services. We proudly serve over 94,000 patients annually through 27 outpatient centers in Colorado’s Pikes Peak and East Central regions. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit peakvista.org.

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