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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2021

Peak Vista’s Developmental Disabilities Health Center Implements Innovative Solutions to Bridge Gaps in Care

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Peak Vista Community Health Center’s (Peak Vista) Developmental Disabilities Health Center now offers in-home visits and hospital consultations to ensure continuity of care for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For many patients, receiving care at many locations, including different hospitals, is a fact of life. Navigating these settings can be challenging. Dr. Emily Johnson, a family medicine practitioner at Peak Vista’s Developmental Disabilities Health Center, now offers hospital consultations. With this service, hospital doctors can consult with Dr. Johnson for support with common health issues and complications in patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities and with transitions of care back to the home setting. This ensures that Developmental Disabilities Health Center patients have improved continuity of care and helps prevent rehospitalizations. The consultation service is being piloted at Penrose-St Francis hospital.

“This is very exciting,” comments Dr. Johnson, “Navigating care across multiple settings is complicated for any patient but can be even more challenging for our patients who have unique medical, social and communication needs. I am excited to see how this program can improve their care and expand.”

To better address the specific access barriers this patient population experiences, the Developmental Disabilities Health Center is also offering home visits. These visits will address both chronic and acute concerns, such as hospital follow ups, blood pressure or diabetes checks, and medication reviews. Peak Vista will continue to take precautions against COVID-19 while conducting home visits, wearing masks and disinfecting all equipment.

The Developmental Disabilities Health Center (DDHC) opened ten years ago to address a specific need in health care. Those with developmental disabilities often used local emergency rooms for primary care, or even forwent primary care altogether, because of the access barriers to quality health care. Today, DDHC provides care to hundreds of patients and helps break down access barriers to care.

“As we celebrate National Public Health Week, I’m once again reminded about the unique services that we provide to help every kind of patient. Our Developmental Disabilities Health Center is one of the few centers in the country that offer primary care services specifically tailored to this population,” says Dr. Lisa Ramey, interim president and CEO of Peak Vista, as well as Chief Medical and Dental Officer.

To learn more about the Developmental Disabilities Health Center and its services, please visit peakvista.org or call (719) 632-5700.

About Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a nonprofit organization providing exceptional health care to

people facing access barriers through clinical programs and education. Celebrating 50 years of community health service, Peak Vista offers primary medical, integrated behavioral health and dental care services. We proudly serve over 93,000 patients annually through 28 outpatient centers in Colorado's Pikes Peak and East Central regions. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit www.peakvista.org.

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