FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Valley Hospital and Kalispell Regional Healthcare

Governing Boards Closer to Affiliation

FLATHEAD COUNTY, MT – April 1, 2016: The Governing Boards of North Valley Hospital and Kalispell Regional Healthcare System have finalized the agreement and governance bylaws to create a formal affiliation of the two entities. The tentative effective date for the transaction is May 1, 2016.

North Valley Hospital will become an affiliate by joining two hospitals, Kalispell Regional Medical Center and The HealthCenter, under the umbrella of Kalispell Regional Healthcare System, integrating the organizations both clinically and financially.

“Many patients in the Flathead Valley visit both North Valley Hospital and Kalispell Regional Healthcare facilities,” said Velinda Stevens, Kalispell Regional Healthcare President and Chief Executive Officer. “By aligning our organizations, this affiliation will allow us to focus on coordinated care within our community, allowing more patients to access services they need locally versus foregoing care or traveling out of the area.”

In October, 2015, the two Governing Boards each voted in favor of a non-binding letter of intent to explore affiliation opportunities. Since that time, the boards and senior leadership have been working on how best to structure the affiliation for the greatest benefit to the community.

Key attributes of the affiliation include:

- Maintaining the name, mission, charitable purposes, and tax exempt status of North Valley Hospital;
- Continuing the current scope of major acute care service lines provided by North Valley Hospital, including the Emergency Department; Obstetrics (Delivery); Inpatient and Outpatient Medical/Surgical procedures;
- Continuing to operate North Valley Hospital as a separate critical access, general acute care hospital;
• Creating shared governance by having board members of each organization serving on the other organization’s board;

• Maintaining the North Valley Hospital Foundation and Kalispell Regional Healthcare Foundation reporting structures to each respective governing board, along with their respective focus on philanthropic efforts;

• Enhancing the recruitment and sharing of physicians and other clinical staff; and

• On an annual basis, for at least five years following the transaction date, completing an annual report on the progress and community benefits of the affiliation, and publishing that report to the communities within the Flathead Valley.

“Our organizations have been working collaboratively for years on activities like recruiting and sharing physicians, sharing medical services, facilitating the electronic use of health-related information, and completion of joint community health needs assessments,” said Jason Spring, CEO of North Valley Hospital. “We are excited to formalize our relationship so we can more effectively work together and expand our efforts to provide accessible and affordable healthcare for our community.”

To learn more about the organizations, visit kalispellregional.org or nvhosp.org.

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