FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Valley Behavioral Health Opens in Whitefish

WHITEFISH, MT – September 2, 2014: North Valley Behavioral Health, a division of North Valley Hospital, has opened in Whitefish to serve people of all ages experiencing mental health issues. The clinic is led by Medical Director, J. Douglas Muir, MD, a board-certified child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist.

North Valley Hospital launched the behavioral health program in response to its 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment that was conducted jointly with the Flathead City-County Health Department and Kalispell Regional Healthcare. The assessment identified five key health needs, one of which was mental health. During the assessment research, many healthcare and social service providers indicated that there was a great deal of need in the Flathead for additional mental health services. Flathead County experiences twice the suicide rate than the national average, and for every completed suicide, there are approximately 25 attempts. Many emergency room visits and hospital readmissions are connected to the mental health state of the patient.

The goal of North Valley Behavioral Health is to restore one’s mental health to an optimal level, and to help alleviate symptoms which may be affecting quality of life, satisfaction and the ability to function.

“I am thrilled to be part of such a wonderful hospital and community and am eager to get started in addressing the needs of the community, specifically as it pertains to mental health,” stated Dr. Muir.

Dr. Muir joins NV Behavioral Health from Cheyenne Regional Medical Center in Cheyenne, WY where he was Staff Psychiatrist from 2011 – 2014. He received his medical degree from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine in Little Rock and did his post graduate residency and fellowships at the UAMS Department of Psychiatry in General, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

“We are excited to expand our mental health services in the north valley area,” said Jason Spring, CEO of North Valley Hospital. “Dr. Muir brings a wealth of experience in child and adolescent psychiatry to help fill the need for children’s services. He is also the Medical Director of North Valley Embrace Health bringing his skills in adult psychiatry to our senior mental health program established in 2012.”
North Valley Behavioral Health is located at 2004 Hospital Way in the North Valley Hospital Medical Village in Whitefish. It shares offices North Valley Geriatric Specialty Services, a comprehensive senior health services program launched in 2013.

About North Valley Hospital:

North Valley Hospital is a private 501©(3), non-profit community Critical Access hospital governed by a Volunteer Board of Directors from the North Valley area. North Valley Hospital is the first hospital in Montana to be affiliated with Planetree. Planetree is a non-profit organization that provides education and information in a collaborative community of healthcare organizations, facilitating efforts to create patient centered care in healing environments. North Valley Hospital receives no tax support for its services. The hospital and its affiliate clinics serve Flathead and Lincoln counties.

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