



Allegheny Health Network brings medical coworking space to Fayette County



KRIS B. MAMULA 
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
kmamula@post-gazette.com 

MAR 1, 2022

4:28 PM

Patients in Fayette County will soon have the benefit of private practice doctors and big health system specialists all in the same place, while independent physicians enjoy the added bonus of low-cost office space.

Office, treatment and exam space will be reserved for private practice doctors in a joint Allegheny Health Network-Preferred Primary Care Physicians project that is planned for South Union Township, Lee Jackson, CEO of Austin, Texas-based Carehub Coworking LLC, said at a news conference Tuesday in Uniontown.

Carehub, a 3-year-old startup specializing in medical office coworking space, provides technology and other supports for private practice doctors who want to stay in solo practice but seek the heft of larger health care systems such as AHN.



Highmark subsidiary AHN is partnering with Preferred Primary Care Physicians to open the 27,500-square-foot medical building on Matthew Drive. Preferred Primary Care doctors will staff the center with internal and family practice doctors, while AHN will furnish 15 medical specialists for patients with advanced care needs, both in-person and through a video conferencing link.

“This is a novel concept,” Mr. Jackson said at the news conference to formally announce the plans. “We’re really excited they took a chance on us.”

Physician coworking space is a twist on the standard office leasing arrangement that most doctors in private practice have, where private property owners are usually the landlords.

About 43% of doctors in the U.S. are privately employed, but the number in Fayette County wasn’t immediately available. Most doctors are employed by big health care systems, where they don’t have to be bothered with human resources, furnishings, office leasing or other issues.

PPCP, based in Canonsburg, has more than 25 offices in the Pittsburgh area.

Joining AHN, Carehub and PPCP in the project is Hilliard, Ohio-based commercial real estate developer Equity LLC. Strip District-based Rycon Construction Inc. is the general contractor and BSA LifeStructures of Indianapolis, Ind., is the architect.

Mr. Jackson said that space will be reserved in the building for private practice doctors who are looking for ways to cut overhead costs without sacrificing patient care. The savings for doctors could be significant.

A doctor who hangs out his own shingle generally pays between \$5,000 and \$7,000 month to run an office, not including \$135,000 in capital expenses, Mr. Jackson said. Carehub, which will also have an office in the new building, can offer doctors an office and treatment space for \$1,400 to \$2,800 a month, while eliminating the need for the capital expense.

AHN specialists at the Fayette County clinic will include obstetrics, orthopedics and sports medicine. The center could be expanded to accommodate outpatient surgery or other uses. AHN, which has had



medical specialists practicing in the Uniontown area for many years, will consolidate these offices at the new center.

“It allows health care to come to the patient,” Chong S. Park, a cardiovascular surgeon and president of AHN Jefferson and AHN Canonsburg hospitals. “That’s the great concept with this.”

AHN is the latest health care system making plans for rural Fayette County. Despite a population of about 128,804 that has been drifting downward since around 1940, Excelsa Health, Penn Highlands Healthcare and WVU Medicine have all planted flags in the county in the past few years with new doctor’s offices, a planned outpatient treatment center and hospitals in Connellsville and Uniontown.

WVU Medicine’s Uniontown Hospital is just a mile from the new AHN-PPCP center.

The attention Fayette County has been getting from the medical community led county commissioner Vincent A. Vicites to say the county was on its way to becoming a regional center for medical care, much like Pittsburgh.

“I definitely think Fayette County is going to be known as a health care hub,” he said at the news conference. “This will definitely help our cause.”

Kris B. Mamula: kmamula@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1699

First Published March 1, 2022, 4:28pm



We hope you enjoyed this free article.

Get unlimited story access for only 99¢.

Subscribe

Limited time offer.
