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\$2.50 VALUE

MANA Opens New Facilities and Adds Doctors

Medical Associates of Northwest Arkansas (MANA) recently opened two more family medicine clinics: FirstCare Family Doctors Mission and Crossover located at 2630 E. Citizens Dr. in Fayetteville and FirstCare Family Doctors Bentonville located at 801 S.E. Plaza Ave. in Bentonville. In addition, the Northwest Arkansas multi-specialty group has added five doctors to their staff including pediatricians, family practitioners and dermatologists.

Both of the new clinics have one physician on staff. Dr. Mark Bonner, who has practiced at MANA's FirstCare Family Doctors South Fayetteville for 11 years, will be moving his practice to the new clinic on Citizens Dr. in Fayetteville. The clinic is located in



FirstCare Family Doctors Mission and Crossover

Kantz Center near Walmart Neighborhood Market and will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At the new Bentonville Clinic located in Fountain Plaza off Walton Boulevard, Dr. Joshua Rankin will see adults and children for urgent medical needs and preventive care Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dr. Rankin is a board certified family medicine physician who has practiced with his father, a family medicine doctor in Hamburg, Ark., since 2007. Dr. Rankin's practice will be in the same building as MANA's Specialists Clinic, Breast Center and Vein Care Center.

In addition to the new family practice clinics, MANA is adding several new doctors to their multi-specialty group. Dr. Daniel Rasmussen and Dr. Andrew Koehler, both pediatricians, are seeing patients at all three Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic locations. Dr. Leah Layer, a family medicine doctor, is seeing patients at MANA FirstCare Family Doctors in South Fayetteville. Also,



FirstCare Family Doctors Bentonville

Dr. Lindsay Enns, a pediatric dermatologist will begin seeing patients, both children and adults, in November of this year at MANA's Fayetteville Diagnostic Clinic and Northwest Arkansas Pediatric Clinic.

"We are currently scheduling appointments online and by phone as well as accepting walk-ins at the new family clinics in Fayetteville and Bentonville," says Paula Maxwell, Chief Operations Officer at MANA. "From what we have heard from patients who are looking for convenient care and more choices, we expect these physicians to be very busy." ■

More Than 100 Benton County Women Enroll in Historical Children's Health Study

The National Children's Study (NCS) is pleased to announce that it has enrolled more than 100 area women in the nation's largest children's health research study focusing on how the environment interacts with genetics to affect the health and wellness of children. In addition, approximately 50 babies have been born into the study since its launch in January 2011.

"We are happy to have recruited more than 100 women so early in the study," says Charlotte Hobbs, MD, PhD, primary investigator and section chief of Birth Defects Research at Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI). She is also the Pamela D. Stephens professor and section chief of Birth Defects Research in the Department of Pediatrics at the UAMS College of Medicine. "From the beginning, we have seen positive participation from women who are currently pregnant; however, we are hoping to see higher enrollment numbers of women who are not currently pregnant, but who are planning a pregnancy over the next

few years," continues Hobbs. "Many couples plan ahead for children. Data collected from women who are not yet pregnant is very important."

According to Dr. James Robbins, PhD, lead local investigator, "Successful recruitment numbers are due to the positive partnerships created between the NCS research team and local doctors, the Benton County Health Department and local hospitals."

The National Children's Study will span 21 years. The focus over the next several months is to continue working with providers to enroll both pregnant and pre-pregnant women, enrolling fathers, and preparing the local study site for the next study phase, which will include biological and environmental collections from participants. "Moving into the next phase of the NCS is exciting for the Benton County research team," says Pearl McElfish, study location director. "Until now, we have only conducted questionnaires with participants. As part of this next phase, we are building a



lab and preparing NCS research staff to begin Phase II collections from participants by late fall." Plans for 2012 will include launching the main study with an enrollment goal of more than 1,000 women, fathers and babies.

Benton County was one of 105 counties chosen in the U.S. from 43 states to participate in this landmark study that will follow more than 100,000 children from before birth to age 21. Families living in Benton County who meet the criteria and are interested in joining the study do not need to wait to hear from their health care providers, but can contact the ACHRI study site at 1-877-KID-STDY or (479) 286-2620, or visit www.ncsbentoncounty.com. ■