



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 17, 2021 Agenda Item 3

### **Presentation**

Presentation by Adventist HealthCare on a Proposal to Establish a Primary Care Office with Behavioral Health Counseling

### **Recommended Council Action**

Hear presentation.

### **Context with Key Issues**

Adventist HealthCare proposes to establish a new primary care office in the medical office building located on the former Washington Adventist Hospital Campus. The medical office building is the first building on your left as you enter the campus from Carroll Avenue. It has its own parking lot, offering convenient access for patients. Importantly, this property is not owned by Adventist HealthCare and, therefore, is not included in the pending sale of the former hospital campus to Washington Adventist University.

Andrew R. Nicklas, JD, Deputy General Counsel & Director of Government Relations for Adventist HealthCare will present the proposal to the City Council.

### **Council Priority**

Livable Community for All

### **Environmental Considerations**

N/A

### **Fiscal Considerations**

N/A

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

HealthCare in Takoma Park is a top priority to meet the health care needs of disadvantaged, underserved, and chronic need populations.

### **Attachments and Links**

- Adventist HealthCare Proposal



**Takoma Park Primary Care Office with  
Behavioral Health Counseling**

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A primary care office will serve Takoma Park residents well as there are currently fewer primary care offices in Takoma Park per capita than the rest of Montgomery County. This is especially true in the southern portion, where this office would be located. The City would further benefit from having an office focused on family care given the age range of the residents.

The office would offer a full range of care for patients, including preventative care and treatment of chronic conditions. The site would be part of the Adventist HealthCare full continuum of care available within AHC networks. AHC's primary care practices are rooted in the principles of integration and coordination between clinical care practitioners, patients, and community service providers.

AHC primary care offices use team-based capabilities that allow them to improve outcomes and optimize the patient experience. These capabilities include coordination of evidence-based clinical, psychological, and social services interventions focusing on prevention, early treatment and communication. The AHC primary care model results in high quality, patient centered care and reduces the use of unnecessary services.

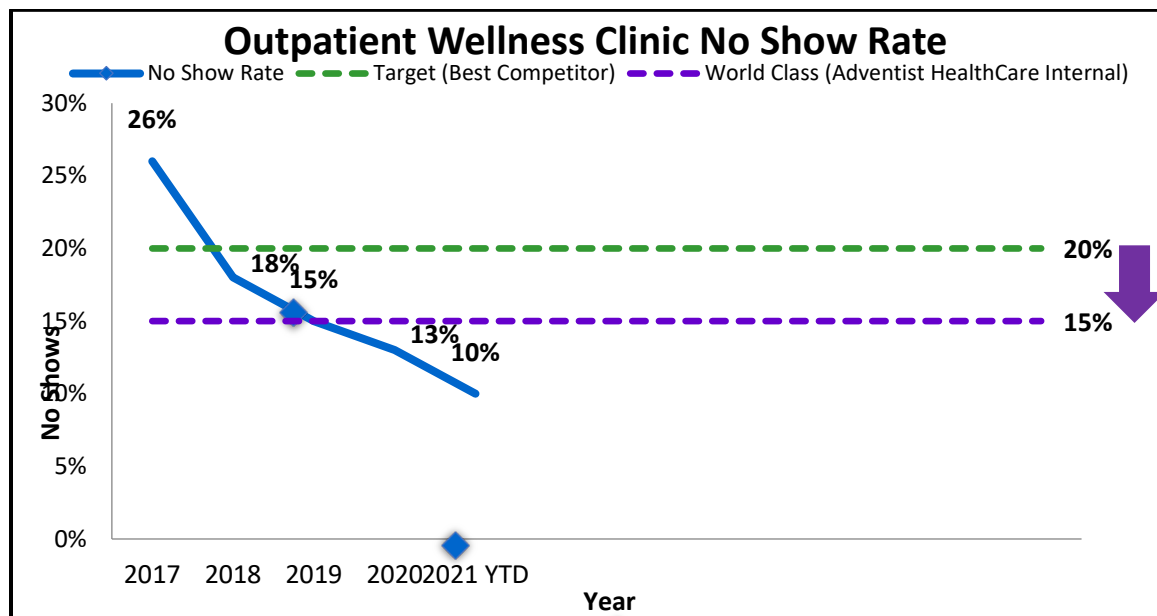
Our Primary Care offering will be very different from an urgent care setting. We focus primary care on both preventive care and chronic care – whole person care. We use a powerful data analytics platform to aggregate clinical data from multiple sources and provide primary care practices with actionable information based on quality metrics, risk scoring and gaps in care. This data identifies patterns of morbidity, estimates resource utilization and reveals chronic condition cohorts by patient and suggests interventions for management. AHC has an associated community health and wellness division which provides targeted community-based health education programs and wellness screenings based on this data.

AHC primary care practices also partner with the Care Transitions and Care Management divisions of AHC – a robust system that provides post-acute care management, home visits, telemonitoring, behavioral health support, social services support and nursing education to patients transitioning between sites of care (hospital to primary care for follow up or hospital to rehabilitation) and for high-risk chronic condition patients in the ambulatory setting.

The primary care office in Takoma Park will also provide behavioral health psychiatric services via telehealth. The site will implement the model of behavioral health care that is employed at our Outpatient Wellness Clinic in Rockville and will serve children, adolescents, adults and older adults and accept commercial insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Primary care providers are the largest referral source to the Outpatient Wellness Clinic as patients often go to their primary care providers to report behavioral health concerns. A strong partnership exists between Adventist Medical Group Primary Care and the Outpatient Wellness Clinic. An electronic medical record is shared, which allows for enhanced collaboration on mutual patients and a streamlined referral process. We will bring this same collaboration and partnership to the location in Takoma Park.

Telehealth has been transformational for behavioral healthcare. Patients are more easily able to access and comply with medication management and psychotherapy. Issues around transportation, busy work schedules, childcare, stigma and privacy, and difficulty leaving the house due to symptoms of the psychiatric diagnosis are no longer major considerations for patients in need of behavioral health services. Since the expansion of telehealth services due to COVID-19, the behavioral health “no-show” rate has dropped to 10%.



Leveraging the telehealth platform, the Outpatient Wellness Clinic now also offers free, virtual workshops as a way to increase access. Topics have included Coping

with Stress, Anxiety and Depression, Mindful Eating, Mindfulness, Coping with Loneliness, and Grief & Loss. These approachable and accessible workshops have had strong attendance and have led several participants to pursue medication and/or psychotherapy services. We can bring this same programming to Takoma Park residents.

**Summary:**

Adventist HealthCare is excited to offer robust primary care services with behavioral health care to the Takoma Park Community. We have identified a location that is both readily available, sustainable, and located in an area that Takoma Park residents associate with health care services. A robust primary care office with behavioral health services supported by the broader AHC network will provide a needed service to the residents of Takoma Park and help to improve the overall health of the community.