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BAY COUNTY

Primary, Urgent care services start July 15 at new Bay County medical facility

by: <u>Kimber Collins</u> Posted: Jul 11, 2024 / 04:25 PM CDT Updated: Jul 11, 2024 / 06:12 PM CDT

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PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (WMBB) — The Panhandle's newest healthcare facility will open its doors this month. Hospital officials said the first building is the first step in a new era of healthcare in the area.

The Florida State University and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital campus will begin seeing primary and urgent care patients at the medical office building on Monday, July 15.

Staff expects to launch the cardiology and ambulatory surgery center in September. They will fill the rest of the four-story office building during the next six months.

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"The beauty about this building is it's the beginning and the foundation for our future health system out here have primary and urgent care out here. Cardiology, other specialties including orthopedics and gynecology, and outpatient military surgery center, which will have five operating rooms fully equipped," said Andrew Starr, TMH Chief Health Operations Officer.

The medical office building is the first one standing at the FSU TMH campus. The main hospital will start construction in 2025 and they hope to be open in 2027.

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"It'll start first with a 180-bed chassis with probably 60 to 80 beds operational on day one. The campus itself has real long-term growth. We made that part of the planning. The campus can support three other medical office buildings each 100,000 square feet and the hospital that we're starting with can expand to almost 600 beds," Starr said.

Starr said they hope the campus will become a teaching hospital through the partnership with FSU. However, the primary focus is to serve area residents and visitors.

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"What we hope will be a regional destination, not just for here in Panama City Beach, but again for Bay, Walton, and the many surrounding counties here in Florida," Starr said.

The primary care will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The urgent care will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Staff said they do plan to move to seven days a week by the end of summer.