

Script
Behavioral Health Hospital Groundbreaking
Jan. 28, 2020

Todd LaPorte

- Thank you, Michelle.
- I'd like to welcome you on this important day for our community.
- Thank you for taking the time to commemorate the groundbreaking of our new hospital: **Via Linda Behavioral Hospital**.
- At HonorHealth, our mission is to improve the health and well-being of those we serve; that improvement includes behavioral health needs as well.
- The needs of our patients and their families are always at the center of what we do at HonorHealth. It is time that we be a part of bringing these services to our community.
- Behavioral services address an important health factor. Studies show Americans are faced with high levels of stress that stem from health, financial, family and other social concerns.
- HonorHealth embraces its charge to be a part of the solution. As a non-profit, community healthcare network, we see the importance of leading our community in this service that has been so underdeveloped.
- The lack of behavioral health resources is not only a major challenge in our community, but also across the state and the nation.
- And, the statistics are sobering.
 - Did you know that...
 - One in five U.S. adults experience mental illnesses each year.
 - One in 25 U.S adults experience a serious mental illness each year.
 - Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged 10-34.
 - The average delay between onset of mental illness symptoms and treatment is 11 years.

- Mental illness and substance use disorders are involved in one out of every eight emergency department visits by a U.S. adult – an estimated 12 million visits.
- I'm proud that our new **Via Linda Behavioral Hospital** facility will help address the growing, unmet need for accessible, high-quality and advanced behavioral health services in the Valley and across Arizona.
- At HonorHealth, we feel a strong responsibility to increase access to this type of care. Our board, our leaders, our medical staff, in fact all our staff, have had a significant positive reaction to the news of our partnership to build a behavioral health hospital.
- Inspired by the track record and leadership of Universal Health Services, HonorHealth pursued a partnership with UHS. We saw it as an ideal way to leverage their specialized expertise and their ability to attract talented behavioral health professionals. Professionals who are in high demand across the country.
- This facility will emphasize the collaboration of multidisciplinary teams including, psychiatrists, internal medicine physicians, certified clinical pharmacists, social workers, psychologists, therapists and other clinical support staff and specialists.
- UHS is known for strong clinical outcomes and has a proven history of partnering with academic, regional networks and community-based entities.
- By partnering with UHS, we're aiming to cover the gap of care so intertwined with many other medical conditions.
- I'd now like to introduce my colleague, Dr. Richard Silver, former Chief Strategy Officer, and now a close Senior Strategic Advisor, who was so instrumental in developing this partnership that is bringing us this facility and its programs. Welcome, Dr. Silver.

Dr. Silver

- Thank you, Todd.
- As you know, and as you've heard here today, the lack of access to behavioral health services is a huge problem not only for our community, but also across the country.
- This is a much underserved community. We currently have patients in our emergency rooms that we cannot place into an appropriate facility to meet their needs.

- While we can treat their medical needs in our current acute care hospitals, we cannot provide them the therapeutic environment that they need to heal.
- A few years ago, HonorHealth did a strategic analysis to understand the gaps in the care continuum and where we needed to fill those gaps in order to create a robust healthcare delivery network to fulfill the needs of our patient population in and outside of our acute care hospitals.
- That analysis revealed a major gap in the area of behavioral health and not enough access to these resources in our community.
- The board and senior leadership all felt very strongly that this is an area we wanted to address and focus on. We also realized that in order to build the care continuum in this specific area, we needed to find a strong partner with expertise in this area. This led to the joint venture with UHS to come together to build this 120 bed behavioral health hospital to be called **Via Linda Behavioral Hospital**.
- **Via Linda Behavioral Hospital** will be a full-service behavioral health hospital treating adolescents to older adults taking care of both medically ill patients with drug and alcohol problems, as well as those with behavioral health problems such as a serious mental illness, anxiety, depression or suicidal ideations.
- Different floors of the hospital will be geared toward different patient populations to meet the needs of those patients. We want to put people in a place they feel comfortable.
- With the younger population, you see more drug and alcohol addiction issues, depression and anxiety.
- With the older adult population, there will be a lot of work around dementia and people who have behavioral issues as a result of that disease.
- One the important features of our new **Via Linda Behavioral Hospital** is the 24-hour intake, where you can either call or show up. It's not an emergency room, but it's a place that you can get an evaluation by a licensed therapist or physician if you need to see if you are safe to go home or if you need to be hospitalized.
- Various levels of care will be provided based on the needs of the patient. This includes:
 - Full service inpatient services.
 - Intensive outpatient, where a patient spends three to four hours, three or four nights a week and receives group therapy.

- Partial hospitalization, where a patient goes all day, they sleep at home, but they get a full day of care at the facility.
- There are clear guidelines established to get each patient to the right level of care.
- I'm excited to see the impact this partnership and facility will have on our community.
- This is an area that I'm very passionate about. Before moving out to Arizona, I ran addiction treatment centers in Philadelphia.
- It was so validating to treat a patient who was in their early 20s at the treatment center, and then have them come back years later as a patient in my private practice, healthy and having added many years of quality life due to the intervention of treatment at the right time earlier in their lives.
- I've seen first-hand the impact this treatment can have on the lives of patients. I'm proud to be part of this partnership with UHS, and I know this will expand the access to care to this underserved population in our community.