FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Mary Meeks | Communications Manager | Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center
303-689-5235 | mary.meeks@sclhs.net

Jeff Almony | Chief Medical Officer | Mental Health Partners
720-406-3665, ext. 665 | jalmony@mhpcolorado.org

Tom Base | Chief Business Development Officer | Mental Health Partners
720-412-7174 | tbase@mhpcolorado.org

Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center and Mental Health Partners Respond to Community Need for Mental Health Services

Partnership Brings Mental Health Services to Physician Clinics

LAFAYETTE, Colo. (October 7, 2013) — Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center (EGSMC) and Mental Health Partners (MHP) have responded to a community health need by establishing a partnership that provides mental health services to patients at Exempla’s Thornton Medical Center.

The pilot partnership involves locating a Mental Health Partners advanced practice nurse (APN) and a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) at the Exempla clinic. They will coordinate mental health care needs alongside Exempla primary care physicians, including advising on medications. As part of the partnership, Mental Health Partners will track improvements in patient outcomes and satisfaction.

The LCSW provides on-site therapy to patients in need of such services – resembling “one-stop shopping.” Research indicates that most mental health issues are presented at primary care visits and even when offered a referral for a therapist; most patients do not follow up. Having mental health professionals on-site generates a degree of trust, convenience, coordination and feedback to the primary care physician. The APN is a specialist in psychiatric medications and is a resource for the physicians at the clinic for medication management.

“One of the themes repeated in recent community health surveys was the need for additional mental health care services,” said Tom Base, Mental Health Partners’ Chief Business Development Officer. “We’re trying to be where the need is, whether in local human services agencies, schools, patient homes or senior centers. Working more closely with primary care clinics is another area of need.”

The pilot project was introduced on Sept. 9, 2013 at Exempla’s Thornton Medical Center, located at 1181 E. 120th Avenue in Thornton, CO.

The pilot project is the brainchild of Sandy Cavanaugh, Vice President of Community & Business Development at EGSMC, who interviewed several physicians at Exempla clinics and determined there was an unmet need for these services. “Physicians were telling us their clinical expertise was extending far beyond their ability to handle just physical ailments. They were also challenged with helping patients who need behavior health care as well.”
The pilot project is funded by Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center as part of its Community Benefit program to meet the needs of the underserved in the community. Future plans include expanding the program to other Exempla clinics in the northwest Denver area.

About Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center
Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center opened December 1, 2004 and is a community-based, 234 bed acute-care hospital located in Lafayette, CO. The medical center is part of the SCL Health System (Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth). Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center’s premier services include our Comprehensive Cancer Center, Heart and Neurovascular Center, robotic surgery, Primary Stroke Center, Integrative Health and Healing Center, “baby friendly” birthing center and emergency services including a Senior Emergency Room. To learn more, visit www.exempla.org/goodsamaritan.

Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center | 200 Exempla Circle, Lafayette, CO 80026

About Mental Health Partners
Mental Health Partners is an independent nonprofit organization formed in 1962 that provides comprehensive mental health and wellness services to residents of Boulder and Broomfield counties regardless of their ability to pay. The organization has multiple operating locations in Boulder, Broomfield and Longmont, Colo., in addition to dozens of community-based service points. To learn more, visit www.mhpcolorado.org

Mental Health Partners | 1333 Iris Ave., Boulder, CO 80304