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E-EDITION LAST UPDATED: Saturday, August 17, 2013 7:37:35 AM

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Healthcare partnership to ease implementation of Obamacare

Modified: Monday, Aug 5th, 2013
BY: TODD GUILD

SANTA CRUZ — Months before President Barack Obama's new health care plan is set to take full effect, a trio of Santa Cruz County health care providing organizations on Monday announced a partnership they say will ease the transition, make it easier for them to serve the expected increases in people seeking medical services.

Santa Cruz Women's Health Center, Dignity Health Dominican Hospital and Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center will collectively invest \$7 million for the partnership to help implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

As part of the partnership, Santa Cruz Women's Health Center plans to build a 9,000 square-foot clinic in Live Oak, which will provide pediatric care for 1,600 low-income children currently served by Dominican Hospital's Pediatrics Clinic on Frederick Street facility, after that facility closes.

The Mid-County location was chosen for its large numbers of "under-served" residents.

The women's center estimates that 5,000 children will be served through the new clinic over the next 10 years. In addition, the new clinic will offer primary care for men, women and



Nan Mickiewicz (left), president of Dominican Hospital, addresses a gathering Monday at the Women's Health Center about a new partnership and a new plan for dealing with the Affordable Care Act. (Photo by Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian)

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