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Akron Children's to add specialty services in Warren

BOARDMAN, Ohio (Nov. 3, 2014) – Starting Nov. 17, Akron Children's will offer specialty services in Warren. Services will include cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, urology, lab and radiology (ultrasound and x-ray). To celebrate the new space, Akron Children's will host a community open house on Saturday, Nov. 8, 1-3 p.m.

The 5,000 square foot space located at The Market Place, 5000 E. Market Street in Warren, features nine exam rooms, three assessment rooms, ultrasound, lab draw area, radiology room, echocardiogram room, nurses' stations and physician charting area.

"It's important for families to stay close to home when finding quality health care," says Lisa Taafe, clinical administrative director, Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley. "Offering these specialties will allow us to bring Akron Children's pediatric expertise closer to families in Trumbull County."

Patient families provided an important perspective during the planning process. They participated in mock ups using wood and cardboard and considered several aspects, including wheelchair access, waiting area space, brightness of rooms and more.

"It was interesting to see how something like this is built, and exciting to know that the needs and comfort of patients and their families are considered, every step of the way," explains Sarah Plant, a mother who participated in the process. "From the size of the hallways to the way we'll be greeted when we walk in the door, it really takes a lot of work to prepare for the kind of experience we've come to expect."

According to Sheryl Valentine, Lean Six Sigma Deployment Leader at Akron Children's Hospital, the hospital used the Lean process for this project, which helps streamline services, save costs and increase capacity through improved use of resources.

"We're making sure that the space works for our patients, physicians and staff, and that's why we take the time to test the space," Valentine explains.

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Editor's Note:

Photo opportunity

Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m., Comments and Ribbon Cutting