

Pilot News

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PILOT PHOTOS/LYDIA BEERS

ABOVE LEFT: Chris Young and Dr. Tod Stillson of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center stand with the Star Performer award, given to the downtown Plymouth Family and Internal Medicine office by MDWise.

ABOVE RIGHT: Laura Trainor of MDWise speaks to staff of Plymouth Family and Internal Medicine's downtown office Friday. Also pictured: Dr. Tod Stillson.

SJRMIC downtown office receives award

BY LYDIA BEERS

STAFF WRITER

PLYMOUTH — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's downtown office received MDWise's "Star Performer" award Friday.

"We are honoring certain providers — our 'over and beyond' providers," explained MDWise spokesperson Laura Trainor Friday afternoon.

MDWise is a nonprofit health care company that serves patients using Hoosier Healthwise, Care Select, and the Healthy Indiana Plan.

Trainor and other representatives brought lunch, a cake, and the actual award to staff at the downtown office to thank them for their work.

Trainor mentioned that she was particularly impressed with the office's October outreach to do "well-baby" checks for patients who had not had them yet.

Dr. Tod Stillson explained that his nurse practitioners, Kathy Long and Susie Cook, had volunteered one Saturday to do the checks.

"We are transforming this practice to a Patient Centered Medical Home," said Stillson Friday. "It's a medical structure for primary care that provides better quality care for the patient."

Stillson said that SJRMIC is using its downtown Plymouth Family and Internal Medicine office to pilot the Patient Centered Medical Home formula.

"The vision is to bring this to all (SJRMIC) practices," said Stillson. "We are being more intentional about partnering with patients to help them manage their own

healthcare. We are taking national standards and applying them to make sure patients are getting a premium program."

Stillson said that three things will be happening as this transition continues — the downtown office will be offering more point-of-care services, hiring more staff, and utilizing more technology.

"The old model was about volume — how many patients we could see," said Stillson. "This model is not about volume, but about quality (of care)."

Stillson noted that this formula for physician practices is something that is relatively new for the Northern Indiana area.

The downtown location of SJRMIC's Plymouth Family and Internal Medicine houses Tod Stillson, MD, Susie Cook, FNP, Kathy Long, FNP, and Lisa Mae, RN, Dietician. It opened in February of this year as an extension to existing PFIM offices at SJRMIC — Plymouth.