



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### Southwest Health System Family Birthing Center Remains Open

**Cortez, CO – (June 19, 2023)** – After careful reconsideration, Southwest Health System (SHS) announces today that the Family Birthing Center at Southwest Memorial Hospital will remain open.

Full Family Birthing Center services, including labor and delivery, remain available to serve the local community. There will be no pause in labor and delivery services as previously communicated. The SHS Board has evaluated this decision following stakeholder input over the past two weeks.

The SHS Board and Leadership will continue to evaluate opportunities to address financial efficiencies to help reverse challenges that many U.S. rural hospitals are facing post-pandemic. The goal is to preserve the organization's fiscal stability while providing high quality patient care. This will take ongoing strategic planning with permanent leadership.

"We are ever thankful for the providers and staff, for their years of compassionate, quality and dedicated service," said Lisa Gates, SHS Chief Nursing Officer. "We will be working harder than ever to collaborate with our providers, staff and local constituents on solutions that best serve our community."

### **About Southwest Health System**

Southwest Health System operates Southwest Memorial Hospital, a critical access hospital, and Southwest Medical Group's multiple clinics providing primary and specialty care services. SHS provides a breadth of service lines to the community. SHS is a private, not-for-profit health system operating under all guidelines and regulations for non-profits and is also governed by a volunteer board. For more information, visit [www.swhealth.org](http://www.swhealth.org).

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### **For Questions please contact:**

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