

Lakeway Regional staffing up

\$200M hospital set to open in spring

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Lakeway Regional Medical Center is expected to draw from Steiner Ranch, Dripping Springs and other areas.

Lakeway Regional Medical Center is busy hiring for its planned spring opening.

The \$210 million, 274,000-square-foot hospital will open with 106 inpatient beds and an emergency department with 20 beds. Lakeway Regional, which is set to open by the end of April 2012, will offer several services, including primary care, neurology, gastroenterology, urology, imaging and radiology, gynecology, and labor and delivery.

The hospital will open with 225 employees, and about 110 to 120 specialty physicians will practice there. Staffing for the hospital has gone extremely well so far, Lakeway Regional CEO [David Kreye](#) said. The hospital receives about 10 to 12 résumés a day.

Meanwhile, California-based Pacific Medical Buildings is building a 54,000-square-foot, three-story medical office building on the same site. The office building should be ready for occupancy by spring of next year, said [Wendy Burke](#), spokeswoman for Hoar Construction.

Demand for office space from physicians has been so strong that Pacific Medical Buildings is considering adding a second building on the site, said [Kregg Elsass](#), associate principal with PageSoutherlandPage LLP, the architectural firm hired to design the hospital and office project.

Many Lakeway residents drive to Austin for most basic health care, Kreye said. Along with Lakeway's 11,300 residents, Kreye expects the hospital will draw from Steiner Ranch, Spicewood, Dripping Springs and surrounding areas. He's optimistic that the hospital will be well-received by the community.

The goal is the "delivery of care and compassion that improves the quality of life and the community that we serve," Kreye said.

Lakeway Regional is jointly owned by Surgical Development Partners LP and private investors, Kreye said.

According to a May filing with the state, Lakeway Regional Medical Center LLC has three managers from Franklin, Tenn.: [G. Edward Alexander](#), [James B. Williams](#) and [James Rohan](#).

Dr. [Samuel DeMaio](#), who stepped down from his role as chairman of the hospital amid an investigation by the Texas Medical Board, continues to be listed as the hospital's agent. The TMB's investigation was prompted by allegations that DeMaio had harmed patients. The case was resolved this year, although there may be related litigation pending. DeMaio has announced plans to have a general cardiology practice in Lakeway.

Before coming to Austin, Kreye was CEO of a Health Management Associates-owned Physicians Regional Medical Center in Naples, Fla. HMA owns 66 hospitals in 15 states.

Kreye's experience, according to an article in a health care publication, is in turning around ailing hospitals. Kreye took the job at the new hospital because he and his family wanted to return to Texas.

Kreye has been preparing for the hospital's opening since arriving in April, working out of a temporary building at the site.

"I've been in the middle of the action," he said. "It's been great to be able to walk through the building."

Courtesy of JB Goodwin