

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Aura (Tinsley) Sanderson is Coming Home**

*The Chelan native returns to serve her hometown community as a primary care provider*

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012:* Aura (Tinsley) Sanderson is coming full circle. After training as an EMT at Lake Chelan EMS, studying Environmental and Wildlife Biology at Eastern University, and receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies through [MEDEX Northwest at the University of Washington](#), the Chelan native returns home to practice medicine at Columbia Valley Community Health's Chelan clinic.

Sanderson, a board certified Physician Assistant, has worked for [Columbia Valley Community Health](#) (CVCH) since 2005. It was the only job she applied for after graduating from MEDEX Northwest, and seven years later, she is still happy to be practicing with CVCH, and thrilled to be back in Chelan.

"When I started with Columbia Valley, I practiced in Chelan for my first two years" Sanderson says. "Then I was asked to fulfill a role at the Wenatchee Walk-in Clinic, with the long-term intention of practicing family medicine back in Chelan when the opportunity was available."

In September of this year, Jim Larsen, D.O. left the Chelan clinic, after three years, to start his own company, which focuses on covering Emergency Room shifts for several North Central Washington area critical access hospitals. As of October 1, Aura has officially begun working two days a week in Chelan as a primary care provider. She will be taking over Dr. Larsen's existing patient panel and looks forward to establishing a long and beneficial relationship with the community.

"There is something unique about practicing in the community in which you grew up and continue to live," Aura says. "I hope to be a positive and helpful presence in supporting our organization as we work to inspire improved health and wellness."

Sanderson will continue working two days at the CVCH Express Care Clinic in East Wenatchee until she transitions to Chelan for a full time schedule. In addition to providing medical care for her hometown, she looks forward to participating in the community and being a general presence there. She is already scheduled to talk with the Chelan high school medical careers class this month.

"I'm excited to be home again. There are so many ways to support the community and opportunities to be involved in – such as medical support for athletic teams, the [Columbia Valley Girls on the Run Program](#), community education events, and mentoring students from the area high school's medical careers class."

Sanderson also appreciates the strong community connection that accompanies an established family medicine practice in one's hometown.

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*CVCH Press Release: Chelan Native Aura Tinsley Sanderson Returns Home*

“There is a slightly more intimate connection when you care for the community members that you have grown up knowing – who have supported you in your youth, who are your neighbors, who you interact with daily and share common community goals. I look forward to nurturing the health of individuals in our community, which to me means health and wellness of the mind, body and spirit.”

When asked what is special about Columbia Valley Community Health, Aura has a lot to say.

“I trust our leadership. I appreciate that this is an organization that nourishes input and creativity, and places importance on every individual. CVCH continues to be forward thinking, intelligent, innovative and thoughtful as we assess our ability to provide evidence-based, compassionate, cost effective and meaningful care to the individuals we serve.”

Aura also appreciates the strategic growth and addition of specialty niches to the organization. “CVCH provides access to efficient and effective programs that support real and positive changes for our patients – such as our behavioral medicine department and our *Make-A-DIF* department, which focuses on diabetes management, exercise habits and improved nutrition of our patients,” Sanderson says.

But most importantly, Aura is proud to be part of a talented team. “We have such a diverse and well-integrated team of health care professionals which serves a diversity of needs. We really do provide a well-rounded, Primary Care Medical Home for our patients, and I’m proud to be a part of that.”

CVCH Chelan clinic, located at 317 E. Johnson Avenue, is open Monday – Friday, 7am – 5:30pm, and offers medical, dental and WIC services. CVCH Express Care, located at 900 Eastmont Avenue, East Wenatchee, is open Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 6pm, and offers menu pricing for same day services with an average wait time of five minutes. For more information about Columbia Valley Community Health, its locations and services, please contact [Sarah Wilkins](#), Communications Coordinator, at 509.662.6000 x1028.

**About Columbia Valley Community Health**

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission’s Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves well over 20,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

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