



HEALTH CARE

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NAME TO KNOW

Autism researcher buys school for learning disabled

As co-founder of the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center, or SARRC, Dr. Raun Melmed is known for his innovative autism research and clinical care.

Now he's taking his work to new heights, with the ownership of Lexis Preparatory School.

He will continue his work with SARRC.

Melmed and Anita Werner, founder of Pediatric Speech and Language Specialists, have taken over the ownership of Lexis and its more than 27,000 square feet of space on the former Cheyenne Elementary School campus.

"There's a need for children who are kind of square pegs in round holes, who don't really fit in the school system," Melmed said.

Sometimes students are reluctant to go to school or their social

interaction with children isn't positive or they're not learning at an appropriate pace, he said.

The school isn't just for children with autism. It also is for children with ADHD, ADD, dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

The K-8 private school has about 50 students but has the capacity for 80, he said.

The goal is to make these students feel comfortable "so they don't feel like they're going to special ed," he said.

An open house is scheduled for Oct. 22.

Eventually, the school will offer a Lexis Tutoring Center, a Brain Fitness Center, communications workshops for parents and kids, and a Therapy Center.

"We want to allow them to have fun while their needs are being met," Werner said.



PROVIDED BY SOUTHWEST AUTISM RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTER

Dr. Raun Melmed will expand from autism research into education with a school for children with learning disabilities.

Magellan chairman pushed for Phoenix HQ move



Despite losing a \$1 billion mental health contract in Maricopa County last year, Magellan Health has moved its headquarters

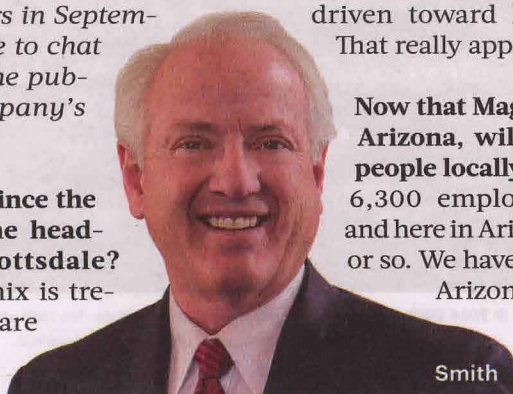
to Scottsdale from Avon, Connecticut.

Magellan Chairman and CEO Barry Smith said there are no sour grapes, even though he still feels the Arizona Department of Health Services made a bad decision to award the behavioral health contract to Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care.

He's been living in Arizona for the past 20 years, raised his kids here and is fully entrenched in the state.

As the company opened its Scottsdale headquarters in September, I got a chance to chat with him about the publicly traded company's future in Arizona:

How did you convince the board to move the headquarters to Scottsdale? Travel from Phoenix is tremendous. There are direct flights virtually everywhere. I



Smith

feel strongly about the business environment here in Arizona. It's a great place to recruit employees and executives too, and the lifestyle here is very positive. When you have the kind of weather we have and the open culture we have here in Phoenix, people feel more positive and productive. I'm a real Arizona fan.

What attracted you to Magellan? I've always had a real thing for businesses that have a real mission. I went into health care many years ago because I thought you could help people and change lives, and health care is so central to the quality of life for people. Yes, we're a business, but we're very mission-driven toward helping people. That really appealed to me.

Now that Magellan is based in Arizona, will you hire more people locally? We have about 6,300 employees nationally, and here in Arizona we have 400 or so. We have plans to grow in Arizona. All our senior executives will be based here in Arizona. The

headquarters itself will likely not be huge, but our Magellan Rx is likely to grow substantially.

Isn't it ironic that Magellan moves its headquarters to Arizona after losing a \$1 billion behavioral health contract? I get asked that a lot. I had contemplated this for some time, moving headquarters here to Arizona, even as all the dispute over the contract was going on. Some said we should have thrown that politically into the fire but we felt that wasn't appropriate because the state needed to be sure in their evaluation. We don't agree with the results, but on the other hand, we never wanted to inappropriately interfere with the process. So we didn't. Smart? I don't know. But ethically, it was the right thing to do.

How will the \$3.6 billion publicly traded company be involved in the community? Obviously, we want to feel like we are part of the community. We have a lot of our folks who have been involved in various community efforts. We want to really be able to help build the community in terms of services in all kinds of ways.

▶ GOOD WORKS

WELLNES PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR VETS

Tempe-based Wellbeing is Natural Inc. is partnering with R4 Alliance to launch a national pilot program for wounded combat veterans.

Called WIN-V, the 10-week pilot program is designed to empower combat veterans to learn and practice new perspectives for civilian life and develop the necessary social skills to succeed in the civilian workforce.

The program is launching this month, and is modeled after Wellbeing is Natural's 15-year-old WIN-10 program, which offers an alternative to excessive medication and treatments, unnecessary office visits, loneliness and expensive therapy.

Aaron Witsoe, COO of Wellbeing is Natural, said he would like to kick off the program with 50 severely wounded vets.

"We want to make some more direct linkages between a person's overall well-being and their outlook and optimism on life," he said.

For more: www.wellbeingisnatural.com



Aaron
Witsoe