

Health Clinic Opens on Campus

Johnson County Community College is opening an urgent health clinic serving students, employees and children at the Hiersteiner

Child Development Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays in room 314 of the Commons Building. The clinic will be staffed by an independent advanced nurse practitioner or physician assistant from Shawnee Mission Medical Center Corporate Care working under the supervision of a physician.

The clinic will provide care for common health problems that are not life-threatening and a limited number of non-narcotic prescription drugs. Referrals to off-campus health resources will be made when required and to a patient's personal physician for follow-up care to chronic diseases like diabetes or high blood pressure. Employees

with work-related injuries/illness will continue to be referred to Concentra Medical Center for non-emergency care and Overland Park Regional Medical Center for emergency care.

Colleen Duggan, nursing professor, initiated the clinic during a 2000 sabbatical leave and presented data to the board of trustees in spring 2001. At that time, she found nearly 70 percent of students and 75 percent of faculty and staff surveyed indicated they would likely use a health clinic on campus. Nearly 20 percent of students surveyed were uninsured.

"The goal of the clinic is to provide students, employees and employees' children at the HCDC a convenient and affordable source of health care services, resulting in less time away from studies and work and increased success and productivity," Duggan said.

"There is an institutional commitment to make this health clinic happen," said Dr. Dennis Day, vice president, Student Services, who co-chairs the present 10-member health care committee with Dr. Roberta Eveslage, psychology professor.

Day told a meeting of potential health care providers that a large number of JCCC students, ages 21-30, are either underinsured or noninsured after they no longer qualify for their parents' insurance. Day is proposing a fund, drawn from student activity fees, to help pay for these students' care and medications.

"A campus clinic allows students to learn responsibility for their own health care," Eveslage said. "The clinic will give students a place to seek help for private concerns like preventive care and testing for STDs (sexually transmitted disease)."

The plan for the health clinic is to start small and eventually grow to include wellness and disease-prevention components and a site for JCCC nursing students to obtain clinical experience.

"I think it's going to keep the JCCC campus healthier by managing diseases earlier," Duggan said. "It will improve the quality of life for the campus community as people will have easy access to affordable, high-quality care."



(left to right) Colleen Duggan, nursing professor; Dr. Dennis Day, vice president, Student Services; and Dr. Roberta Eveslage, psychology professor, have been instrumental in securing health care on campus.