

# 16th Street health center to expand, boost services

**Broad range of programs  
to be offered  
to south side community**

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The 16th Street Community Health Center is expanding to increase the range of services it offers.

This expansion comes on the heels of the opening of two other community health clinics:

■ The United Community Center and Carroll-Columbia College of Nursing have opened a new center at UCC, 1028 S. 9th St. It will offer a variety of nursing health care services, screenings and educational programs for youth, families and the elderly who attend programs at UCC.

■ The Marquette University College of Nursing has started a new community health outreach clinic at the Guest House on North 13th St. and West Highland Ave., aimed at homeless women and uninsured women and children.

John Bartkowski, chief operating officer at 16th Street, said the health center's strategic plan includes offering a broad range of health services to the largely Spanish-speaking community in its neighborhood. Poor, non-English speaking residents have an especially difficult time finding dental care and mental health services, he said. But the current building at 1032 S. 16th St. simply can't handle all those services.

The \$2.8 million expansion will include:

- A free-standing dental clinic at the intersection of Lincoln and Kinnickinnic avenues.
- Expansion of the mental health clinic at 16th Street.
- Expansion and renovation of the clinic's pediatric department to 50 examining rooms, up from the current 20.
- A new administrative cen-

ter located in the Bank One building at S. 16th St. and W. Greenfield Ave., purchased with the help of a zero interest loan from the city. It will house the clinic's department of environmental health, the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program, the immunization outreach project, and administrative offices. The center leased space to Bank One so it can continue operations, and to the Latino Health Organization, an advocacy group.

Costs for the new programs will be covered by a combination of public and private funding, including a grant from the Bureau of Primary Health Care, Title 19 and private pay insurance, Bartkowski said.

The new dental clinic is scheduled to start treating patients on Nov. 3. It will be housed in a two-story, turn-of-the-century building that's been purchased by the center and is now being remodeled.

Robert Grzybowski will direct the dental clinic, and is one of four dentists who will staff it, along with a dental hygienist. It will offer comprehensive services to adults and children, including preventive, diagnostic and prosthetic services such as crowns and bridges. The clinic also plans to contract with an oral surgeon to perform more complicated surgical procedures at the clinic.

Low-income patients frequently have a higher incidence of periodontal disease and early tooth loss because they can't afford regular care, he said.

Additional mental health services will be provided at the 16th Street site in the area formerly occupied by the administrative offices, according to Bartkowski. The center now employs two bilingual psycho-

therapists and three others will be hired, he said. The center also will contract for a Spanish-speaking psychiatrist.

"There's really no significant mental health providers to the low income, Spanish-speaking community," said Bartkowski.

Research has shown that when physical and mental health are treated together, patients recover more quickly, he said.

The expansion of the pediatric department, which has five physicians, will make it one of the largest pediatric clinics in the city, Bartkowski said.

El Centro de Salud, the UCC/Carroll-Columbia clinic, is located in five rooms in the lower level of the UCC building in the heart of the Hispanic community, according to Walter Sava, director.

The center will give nursing students from Carroll-Columbia first-hand experience in community health care, said Marian Snyder, dean of Columbia College of Nursing.

El Centro de Salud, which is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, is supported in part through grants from the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center and the Women's Fund of the Milwaukee Foundation.

Mary Ann Lough, assistant professor and coordinator of the Marquette clinic, said that with the state's Wisconsin Works welfare replacement program in full force, the clinic expects to see many women with children who are seeking work.

The clinic, which was started with a grant from the Emory Clark Foundation, offers free health checks and physical exams, along with health and wellness education.