

Free new teen clinic on tap in Davenport



4 HOURS AGO • [DEIRDRE COX BAKER](#)
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The Free Access Clinic for Teens will open Wednesday at the Edgerton Women's Health Center in Davenport, giving young women access to free health care, tests and information on birth control and sex education in a trusted, safe location, officials said Monday.

The walk-in clinic, to be known by the acronym FACT, is made possible by a partnership between Bethany for Children & Families, a 114-year-old Moline-based agency, and Edgerton,

which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

While Bethany obviously has a long history, the agency has during the past 30 years, its website states, "moved beyond the provision of child welfare and adoption services to address problems and situations that impact the children, youth and families of the Quad-Cities area."

Since 1972, Edgerton has provided family planning and prenatal services to the Quad-City community and nutritional services to women, infants and children in Scott County.

The new clinic will be open 12:30-4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at 1510 E. Rusholme St., Davenport. That day of the week was chosen specifically because some area school district students have Wednesday afternoons off and would be able to more easily use the clinic, said Mary Ann McLeod, Bethany's director of community services.

Services to be provided at the clinic include:

- Birth-control counseling.
- Pregnancy tests.
- Counseling on sexual decision-making.
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.
- Testing for HIV/AIDS.

Too often, teens find themselves in a situation in which they don't want to speak to their parents, but they do want answers about their health, McLeod said. They may feel squeamish about the topic or want information without being judged.

"This is an opportunity for them to get help, free of charge, and to ask their questions and get professional, non-judgmental and accurate information," she said.

"Sometimes, they just have one simple question," said Libbet Brooke, the community health

educator at Edgerton, who will staff the clinic initially.

The venture is being funded in part with a \$40,060 grant from the Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program of the Iowa Department of Human Services. Edgerton put up a similar amount of funding, McLeod said, and is providing the staff and use of its exam rooms.

Personnel in area schools will be given information about the clinic in the next few weeks, she said, adding that organizers do not know at this point how heavily the services will be used.

McLeod and Brooke have partnered for years to provide Quad-City area youth with sex education. About six years ago, they held workshops for parents who wanted tips on speaking to their teens about sex. The two women also led an abstinence-based program in the North Scott School District.

This year is the first time they could make the clinic program work with the grant support, McLeod said. Initially, they wanted to host the clinic twice a month, but there was not enough funding.

The clinic project is a natural fit at Edgerton, Brooke said.

"In my mind, anytime we increase access to services for anyone who needs them, we are serving the community," she said.