

Clinic readies to offer care

Downriver Community Services hopes to have downtown site finished soon

March 23, 2010

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Times Herald

The interior of the building at 1011 Military St. in Port Huron mostly is bare -- all 16,000 square feet of it.

Downriver Community Services, which is moving into the building, gutted it of nearly all the walls and is planning to construct new offices starting next month.

Cynthia Roush, chief executive officer of the group, said the new clinic will offer primary care services, including family practice, internal medicine and pediatrics.

"We're thrilled," she said during a walkthrough of the site Monday. "We're hoping to get in here really fast; as fast as we can."

Downriver Community Services, a qualified federal health-care provider, also has clinics in Algonac and New Haven.

It is opening its third clinic in Port Huron because of a need for subsidized health care.

Port Huron is considered a medically underserved area, determined by the number of people living below the federal poverty level and not receiving regular medical care.

Roush said previously 11,000 to 20,000 people in Port Huron fit those criteria.

In the walkthrough, Roush said 10,000 square feet of the building will be used as a clinic, with five physician suites that each include a doctor's office and three examination rooms.

There also will be a lab, X-ray room, an office for behavioral health and two procedure rooms, plus space for medical records, a staff lounge and the clinic manager's office.

Roush said the other part of the building -- about 6,000 square feet -- likely will be home to a pharmacy run by the clinic. That still must be approved by the Downriver Community Services board.

Additional space will be reserved for another tenant or expansion.

Downriver Community Services announced its expansion in December.

It provides health care at a discount to those who don't have **insurance** or have low incomes. The care is not free but can cost \$10 for those in the lowest poverty level.

Roush said area health services and community groups are hopeful about the clinic moving into the city.

She said she already has received many calls from local officials and people seeking care.

"We are so excited to get up here," she said.

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