



**lenconnect.com**

The Daily Telegram · Adrian, MI · Serving Lenawee County Since 1892

## Low-cost clinic moves to larger location

**By Erik Gable**

**Daily Telegram**

Posted May 04, 2010 @ 01:39 PM

Last update May 04, 2010 @ 03:39 PM

ADRIAN, Mich. —

The Family Medical Center, a low-cost clinic serving the Adrian area, moved to a larger location on Monday that will allow it to serve more patients.

The clinic, which opened in 2008 near Bixby Medical Center, has moved down the road to 225 Riverside Ave., the former office of Dr. Josephine Samson. Staff members carried out the move on Friday and Saturday in time for an open house Monday morning; the clinic was scheduled to start receiving patients Monday afternoon.

The old site had three exam rooms, and executive director Ed Larkins said it usually takes about four weeks for a new patient to get an appointment. The new space has five exam rooms — soon to be expanded to six — and Larkins said the clinic hopes to cut the wait time for new patients down to no more than two weeks.

The clinic hopes to eventually offer mental health services as well, Larkins said.

Larkins said about 50 percent of the clinic's patients have no insurance whatsoever, about 45 percent have Medicaid, and about 5 percent have Medicare or coverage from miscellaneous sources. Patients with no insurance are charged on a sliding scale based on family size and income.

A grant from the federal government covers about 20 percent of the budget. The clinic also receives some funding from Lenawee United Way. The rest of the budget comes from Medicaid and self-pay patients, Larkins said.

The clinic has a full-time nurse practitioner and physician assistant, plus a part-time physician.

Family Medical Center of Michigan operates four other facilities: clinics in Carleton, Temperance and Monroe and a dental office in Adrian.

U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek, was on hand for Monday's open house.

"You are a blessing to this community," Schauer told the assembled clinic employees and community partners.

Referring to the people who find themselves needing the clinic's services, Schauer said, "there but for the grace of God go any of us."

Schauer said the health care law recently passed by Congress increases funding for clinics like the Family Medical Center.

Renell Weathers, a district representative for Schauer, said the law allocates \$11 billion in new funding for community health centers over five years beginning in fiscal year 2011, which starts in October.

The Family Medical Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Copyright 2010 The Daily Telegram. Some rights reserved