



News Release

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County to Offer Employee Pharmacy and Health Clinics

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cumberland County plans to open an employee wellness center in the former public health building on Fountainhead Lane no later than July. It will include a full-service pharmacy, an acute-care clinic, and a wellness clinic. The Board of Commissioners approved the plan today.

The project is designed to improve the health of the county's workforce and significantly reduce the county's health insurance claims for doctor's office visits and medications.

The four-story former E. Newton Smith Public Health Center is also being renovated to accommodate the Board of Elections, which is moving from its crowded offices on Gillespie Street. The building was dedicated in 1981 and has been empty for two years following the opening of the new Public Health Center at 1235 Ramsey St. in January 2010. Plans call for a wellness clinic and pharmacy to be located on the first floor, along with the Board of Elections offices. An express care clinic will be located on the second floor.

At first, wellness and express care clinic services will be available only to county employees who are eligible for health insurance coverage (regardless if they are on the plan or not) and retirees who are covered by the county plan. The pharmacy will be for employees and retirees who are on the county plan. Eventually the county plans to expand services to include spouses and children who are on the county's insurance plan.

The center's mission is to promote positive health behaviors through health awareness, education, and wellness services. The Wellness Center staff will be under the Health Department and will include a licensed pharmacist, pharmacy technician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, administrative assistant and the employee wellness coordinator, who will work from an office in the Wellness Clinic and offer educational and motivational programs to promote healthy lifestyles.

Plans are for the Employee Express Care Clinic to be open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and until noon on Fridays. This sick-call clinic is not designed to replace employees' primary care physicians. Rather it is to be used when employees are not feeling well and need to be seen quickly. Employees will not need to use sick time to visit the Express Care Clinic and there will be no co-pay.

The in-house Employee Pharmacy will result in deep discounts for the county and employees. There will be no co-pay for generic prescriptions and brand-name medications will be cheaper than under the county's current plan. Hours are expected to be 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and until noon on Friday.

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