

TEEN CLINIC at CASA

History: On September 19, 2000 West County Health Centers opened a weekly drop-in teen clinic at the Occidental Area Health Center. In April 2002 a second weekly teen clinic was opened at Russian River Health Center in Guerneville. In order to improve access to services it was felt that having a clinic closer to the local high schools was important. On November 25, 2003 the Teen Clinic at CASA opened its doors in Forestville, just a mile from El Molino High School. The average monthly encounters prior to the new clinic were 33. In 2007, the average monthly encounters are 130. Over 5,000 encounters have been recorded at the teen clinics since September 2000.

Services: The Teen Clinic provides free, confidential family planning services including birth control options, emergency contraception, pregnant testing, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, HIV testing, condoms, mental health counseling and health education. Services are available for adolescents up to age 24.

Hours of Operation: The Teen Clinic is open every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 – 5:30 on a drop-in basis. No appointment is needed.

Fees: All teen clinic services are **free of charge**.

Teen Clinic Advisory Board: In April 2001 West County Health Centers established a Teen Clinic Advisory Board. Now known as the Teen Health Crew, the board consists of teens from local high schools whose role is to advise the health center regarding teen appropriate services at the clinic. They also help promote the teen clinic, provide information to their peers and make comprehensive sexuality education presentations to school classes and youth groups.

Professional Staff: The Teen Clinic is staffed by two nurse practitioners (Shari Kovner, FNP and Mary Wyman, FNP), a registered nurse (Julie Weiner, RN) and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Kathleen O'Brien, LCSW).

Teen Staff: The Teen Clinic is staffed by two to three Teen Clinic Specialists who are members of the Teen Health Crew. They serve as front and back office assistants.

Funding: The Teen Clinic currently receives funding from The California Wellness Foundation, California's PACT family planning program and Medi-Cal. Funds to support the Teen Clinic over the past seven years have been received from the Coddling Foundation, The California Endowment and private donors.

Awards: The Teen Clinic received Best Practices awards in 2004 and 2005 from the Sonoma County Youth Education and Employment Services Council.