

■ NEW BRITAIN

Clinics planned for Broad Street,

New Britain General

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NEW BRITAIN — In the next year, the city could get two community health clinics — one in the Broad Street neighborhood and another at New Britain General Hospital — if negotiations between the hospital and a private health organization are approved by the state.

Community Health Center Inc., which has neighborhood clinics in Middletown, Meriden, New London and Old Saybrook, is negotiating with New Britain General Hospital officials to open the two clinics.

In the next three months, Community Health Center could take over the management of the hospital's outpatient clinic, which treats about 30,000 patients a year. The arrangement would require the hospital to lease the clinic space inside the hospital and be assured room for doctors who need training.

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tal President Laurence Tanner said. Mark Masselli, president of Community Health Center Inc., said he wants to have clinic doctors available 24 hours a day through an answering service. The hospital out-

patient clinic now schedules appointments.

By the fall of 1995, Masselli said, he hopes to open another clinic across Route 72, where more poor residents without medical insurance live. The clinic would offer medical and dental care to people on the basis of their ability to pay, he said.

"We hope to bring 40 to 50 new jobs to New Britain over the next two years," Masselli said. The jobs

would include physicians, nurses, medical assistants, clerical workers and janitors.

The two clinics would be run by a board of directors, all of whom would be city residents, Masselli said. Residents who use the clinic would make up 50 percent of the board. The approval of state health officials is required to open the clinics.

Masselli has applied for a state grant of \$100,000 to research and

plan the two clinics. But, he said, state assistance is not essential to the plans. The clinics will be maintained largely through patient fees, he said.

"The state assistance would be very helpful," Masselli said. "But we will still move ahead if we don't get it."

But the city council, which has blocked previous efforts to win a state grant for a neighborhood clinic, could pose an obstacle. Masselli

and Tanner plan to meet with political leaders this month. Tanner said he wants to win the support of the council and the community while the plans are being discussed.

"Nothing has been signed," Tanner said. "This is still at the conceptual level."

Masselli said that although Community Health Center of New Britain, as it would be called, would not need financial assistance from the city, it would need political support.

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