



Guest Column

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Farewell 4C's; Welcome Coastal Health & Wellness

4C's has transformed into Coastal Health & Wellness. Since 1970, the Galveston County Coordinated Community Clinic has been referred to as "4C's." With the name change comes many other big changes - a new larger clinic site in Texas City at the Mid-County Annex, new pharmacy services for the uninsured at area Walgreens, new same day appointments, new electronic records systems, and a new website with much more information about these changes, www.coastalhw.org.

The clinic's governing board took initial action in late 2011 to change the name and in January 2012, the 4C's clinics officially became Coastal Health & Wellness. This change was made along with preparations to move the Texas City clinic to the new Mid-County Annex at 9850-C Emmett F. Lowry Expressway.

While we welcome these changes that improve public services, there are some things that will remain the same. Unchanged is our mission to provide high quality primary care to any Galveston County resident, our special programs to help the poor and uninsured, our federally qualified clinic status, our Joint Commission accreditation for exceptional quality care, and our two service locations in Texas City and in Galveston. The Galveston clinic will remain at 4700 Broadway in the Island Community Center with plans to begin upgrading that site next year.

Coastal Health & Wellness provides primary care, counseling, and basic dental care to residents with or without insurance. Our status as a federally qualified health center allows us to provide discounted health services to the indigent and uninsured based on their financial ability to pay. In 2011, the two clinic sites provided more than 15,000 residents with more than 48,000 clinic visits. This care is provided by medical and dental personnel whose cost per visit is less than state and national averages.

Compared to other community health centers, Coastal Health & Wellness is one of the most efficient and productive in the state and nation. Additionally, it has met all of the standards for high quality care through its Joint Commission status.

By moving our Texas City site from the Community Family Center to the new Mid-County Annex, we now have a facility with the capacity to grow and serve even more local residents. Compared to the old Texas City clinic, the new clinic will have five additional exam rooms for a total of 28, and two additional treatment rooms for a total of three. Dental services will have a total of eight dental exam rooms which is three more than the previous clinic.

Coastal Health & Wellness has positioned itself to be optimally ready to serve more and serve better. Staff will be monitoring and adapting to any changes in the health care environment associated with state and national health care changes. Finally, this transformation promises to improve customer service.

I want to welcome you to your community health clinics now called, Coastal Health & Wellness! See our website or call our Contact Center for additional information at (409) 938-2234. For north county residents, call (281) 309-0255.

Stay tuned for an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony!

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