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TOP STORY

Planned Parenthood opens \$2 million facility in Queensbury

BILL TOSCANO btoscano@poststar.com 16 hrs ago 5



Bill Toscano, btoscano@poststar.com

Laura Gallery, left, and Rebecca Epstein were giving out information about Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson at Glens Falls Fair on Saturday. Planned Parenthood's new \$2 million Greater Glens Falls Health Center at 543 Bay Road opens Monday.

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QUEENSBURY — Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson's \$2 million clinic opens Monday at 543 Bay Road.

The Greater Glens Falls Health Center replaces an aging facility at 135 Broad St., will offer all services previously offered at that site and is adding a series of additional services.

An added benefit for both staff and patients is the new location, on a medical cul-de-sac near SUNY Adirondack, with a good deal of parking behind the building. The entrance is also at the rear.

At the old site, patients had to park on the street and very often encountered protesters in front of the building. In fact, at one point, the house next door was used as a headquarters for anti-abortion protesters.

"Everything about it is state-of-the-art," Emma Corbett, the group's director of communications, said of the new facility on Thursday. "We are adding some very important

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pieces to what we have had before. And there is more privacy entering and leaving the building.”

There are also a number of new programs available at the Bay Road site.

Telemedicine will be available as part of an effort to improve access to care through technology. Patients will receive preventive medicine and behavioral health counseling they might not otherwise have been able to access.

“Say our providers here are all busy, but a patients needs to talk to someone about their care,” Corbett said. “There might be a staff member in Utica who does not have a patient and can work with the patient here through teleconferencing.”

The new building will allow Planned Parenthood to expand its informed consent transgender health care and hormone replacement therapy.

Planned Parenthood will continue to offer support for survivors of rape, sexual assault, domestic violence and other crimes through the Victims Advocacy Services team, but in an expanded area that will be more comfortable for patients.

The new facility will continue to offer all aspects of reproductive health services, including wellness exams, cancer screenings, family planning, abortion care, adoption options counseling, STI/HIV testing and treatment and depression screening and treatment.

The center held a ribbon-cutting Friday afternoon.

Mohawk Hudson’s CEO Kim Atkins stressed that he feels it is clear that Planned Parenthood is needed, nationally and locally, despite de-funding efforts in Washington, D.C.

Locally, he said, the time had come for a new and more modern facility.

“After serving the Glens Falls community and Warren County for over 50 years, it was time to find a more modern facility that offers patients more privacy, and affirms our commitment to the area for many more years to come,” he said last week.

Besides Queensbury, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson has facilities in Amsterdam, Clifton Park, Cobleskill, Johnstown, Oneida, Rome, Saratoga, Schenectady and Utica.

You can read Bill Toscano’s blog at poststar.com/blogs or his updates on Twitter, @billtoscano_ps.



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