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Health Center offers care to students at low rates

By Alice Hrnicek

For a small price, the UNL Health Center offers hospital, counseling and speciality services to university students.

The health center, at 15th and U streets, can take care of almost any student health problem said Steve Blom, a health center administrator.

At a cost of \$34.70 per student in student fees each semester, the center provides medical visits and services at belowcommunity rates, Blom said.

The center has a \$2 million budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1981, Blom said. Eighty-one percent of that is for the 100-member staff, and the rest for overhead.

Three-fourths of the budgeted money is from student fees, he said. The rest is from user charges.

The pool of money from student fees, he said, allows the health center to charge less than community rates for most services.

The medical clinic is open weekdays and half-days on Saturdays, and is available by appointment. After-hours services are available in case of emergency, Blom said.

Ten staff physicans work at the center during the day, and 10 resident physicians work at night, he said.

Laboratory and X-ray tests and medicines from the pharmacy are available at 30 percent below community rates, he said.

The acute illness clinic is a backup system for persons in need of a doctor when a scheduled appointment time is unavailable, Blom said.

In addition, the health center brings in dermatology and allergy specialists to serve students.

A staff dietician plans menus for persons in the 14-bed infirmary.

The infirmary costs \$50 a day, less than half a community hospital rate, Blom said. Although surgery is not performed at the infirmary, many serious illnesses and injuries can be treated there, he said.

The staff dietitian also counsels students with dietary problems.

A weight-control program is offered each semester for persons at least 15 percent overweight, he said. The program focuses on food management and behavior modification.

About 150 health aides, one for each floor of residence halls and for Greek houses and cooperatives, are trained by the Health Center.

The Mental Health Clinic, staffed by two psychiatrists, one clinical psychologist and one social worker, is available for students who are distraught by school or social pressures, he said.

Another service, the dental clinic, is staffed by instructors from the Dental College on a part-time basis. The dentists do check-ups and simple restorative work, Blom said.

Health aides give counseling About 15,000 visits are made to health aides each year by students with health concerns said a UNL Health Aide Program team member.

Health aides can help with minor health problems, such as a headache, and can also provide some emergency first aid. They are available for counseling on health problems and can tell students where to go for help.

Greg Barth, a member of the Health Aide Team, said that the health aide pro-

gram has been authorized to hire 100 employees each year.

But Barth said the service has been received so well by students that 150 will be hired for the 1981-82 school year.

Applications are being accepted for about 75 positions still available, Barth said, since only about 75 aides have been hired to begin working Monday.

This year residence halls will have a health aide on every floor.

