

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Health District announces Addiction Treatment Clinic to close

(Las Vegas, Nev., - March 18, 2002) – After conducting an evaluation of its Addiction Treatment Clinic (ATC), the Clark County Health District has decided to discontinue services offered at the clinic by June 30, 2002. Public health nurses will work with all clients to place them in other available treatment programs by the end of June.

The role of a public health agency is work to improve the health of a community as a whole. This is accomplished, in part, by providing medical services that are not available elsewhere. When the ATC opened in 1971 it was one of only two clinics where methadone treatment was available.

“After a careful evaluation and assessment of treatment programs in the community we felt that there were sufficient resources to meet the needs of our current clients,” said Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer for the health district.

“This program provided a valuable service, but now that treatment is more widely available we will shift our resources to other areas of need.”

The clinic provided methadone to treat clients with an addiction to opiates. This can include an addiction to heroin or prescription painkillers containing the narcotic. Methadone is a long-acting medication that diminishes withdrawal symptoms and blocks the euphoric affect if a patient uses a drug containing opium.

(more)

“We’ve developed a real bond with some of our long-term clients,” said Bonnie Carlisle, program manager for the ATC.

“Our clinic was very successful in helping clients maintain a self-supporting lifestyle, with approximately 75 percent working in the community. While it is difficult for us to say good-bye, I am confident we will be able to ensure a smooth transition for current clients to the other treatment programs available in our community.”

The ATC first opened at the health district in 1971. Since its doors first opened the clinic has treated well over 1,600 clients. All current employees of the ATC will be assigned to other programs offered by the Health District.

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