

New director sets goals for health center

□ In addition to a student advisory board chaired by a student, Dr. Lucille Isdale plans to create separate clinics for different types of health care.

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

said Isdale's administrative style will lead to more student involvement.

"We're absolutely pleased that we were able to hire Dr. Isdale as the new health center director," Kibler said. "She's very committed to the active involvement of students in the delivery of health services. We expect to see students taking a much more active role."

One goal Isdale has for the A.P. Beutel Health Center is to start a student advisory board. The board would be chaired by a student and would offer advice for the improvement of the health center from the students' perspective.

"I think our best resource is our students," she said. "I want to find the heartbeat of the students. I don't like to make decisions alone."

Student Government members will select the advisory board members. Anyone inter-

ested can call the Student Government Office.

Isdale will also seek student opinions through an evaluation form, which patients can fill out while waiting for treatment at the health center.

"If students are willing to

ter clinic hours.

Isdale said she plans to cut down on the waiting time in the health center by setting up several different clinics, such as an allergy clinic.

With the allergy clinic, patients needing an allergy shot would not wait with patients who are ill. The separate clinic would reduce the spread of germs, and cut down on the wait for treatment.

Isdale is also considering wart clinic, immunization clinic and asthma clinic.

"We want to give you a direct pathway to the service you need," she said.

Isdale is studying data to determine the need for evening clinic hours. She said the future of the health center has almost infinite potential.

"I think we are only limited by our imagination and our funding right now," she said.

Isdale said she wants students to have an ideal health care system at A&M.

"I want to be part of your solution," she said, "not a part of your problem."

"I want to find the heartbeat of the students. I don't like to make decisions alone."

— Dr. Lucille Isdale
new health center director



help on these, I believe we can be successful," she said.

Isdale said she wants to set up a home page on the World Wide Web to give students access to information on the health center, such as clinic hours.

In addition, Isdale said she would like to see a Dial-A-Nurse program implemented, which would provide students telephone access to a nurse af-

Student needs, funds cause compromise in operation hours

□ The health center director is reviewing the past service records to determine logical hours of operation for the center this fall.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

New hours for A.P. Beutel Health Center will be established by Tuesday or Wednesday.

The health center hours for all services are temporarily Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Lucille Isdale, the new health center director, said operating hours are in flux because she is reviewing health center procedure with an advisory board of staff and students to determine the best way to meet patients' needs.

"I feel that we must have student input,"

she said.

However, Isdale said funding might prove to be a problem.

As of this summer, the health center significantly reduced after-hour urgent care services.

Health care services, which used to be available 24 hours a day, were reduced to Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No urgent care services were available on

"That (EMS services) will not be modified even with changes in hours."

— Dr. Lucille Isdale
new health center director

Sundays.

Fiscal constraints and a low demand for services were the reason for the cut back.

Hours of operation were further reduced to Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

for all services when summer classes ended.

The University Emergency Medical Service, which provides ambulance services 24 hours a day, is still in full operation.

"That (EMS services) will not be modified even with changes in hours," Isdale said.

One way Isdale is determining health center hours is by analyzing the records of health center services provided during the first three weeks of Fall 1994.

Sharon Arnold, head nurse at the health center, said an alternative to urgent care services being considered is a 24-hour Dial-A-Nurse service.

With this system, a nurse would be on call after regular hours to provide medical advice over the telephone.

"We would be very conservative in our — strictly advice," Arnold said.

Although the summer brought cuts in urgent care services, at least one area was expanded.

"Since our urgent care has stopped, we're trying to expand our role during the day,"

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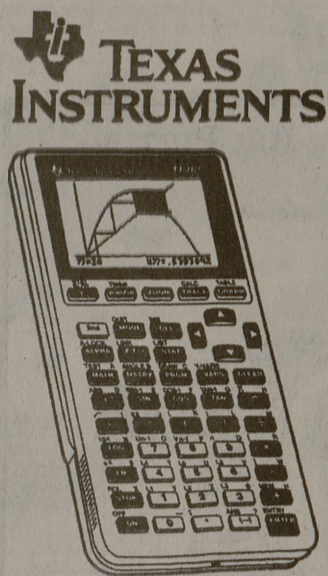
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