



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Cecilia Krebs, deputy director of programs at Janus, leads a tour the new branch of Janus on Pennsylvania Drive in Watsonville.

Janus opens South County location

Will offer addiction services for up to 120 patients

Drug Abuse Center
By TODD GUILD

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — After years of advocating for a drug and alcohol treatment clinic in South County, Janus of Santa Cruz has opened a location in Watsonville.

The clinic has helped patients with addiction recovery at its Emeline Avenue location for more than three decades, offering services such as alcoholism rehabilitation, drug detoxification and opiate addiction treatment.

But clients from South County had to travel to North County to get their medication, most of them on a daily basis. For many, that meant a three-hour round-trip on the bus.

The new clinic, which opened in Watsonville this month, will serve approximately 120 people.

"We're so excited," said Cecilia Krebs, deputy director of programs at Janus. "We're so glad to have this space. We've been trying to open this for a long time."

Part of the problem during the eight-year search was finding a location in the face of the stigma surrounding such facilities, she said.

"There were concerns that we would attract addicts to the area, without realizing that they were already here," she said. "We're helping to decrease the problems, not increase them."

Janus offers a wide range of drug and alcohol treatment programs, which range from outpatient services to extended residential treatment to methadone treatment to services for pregnant mothers.

Many of these transition into long-term services designed to keep patients clean, with referrals to other public services such as housing, and ongoing counseling services that ultimately help patients repair damaged relationships and find employment, Krebs said.

Janus bills itself as a "Sub-Acute" detoxification program, designed for patients with mild

See JANUS, page A3

JANUS

From page A1

withdrawal symptoms from alcohol or drugs, and who don't need to be hospitalized for detoxification. At the same time, however, they may need referrals for medical assessment and medications to help them through their withdrawal.

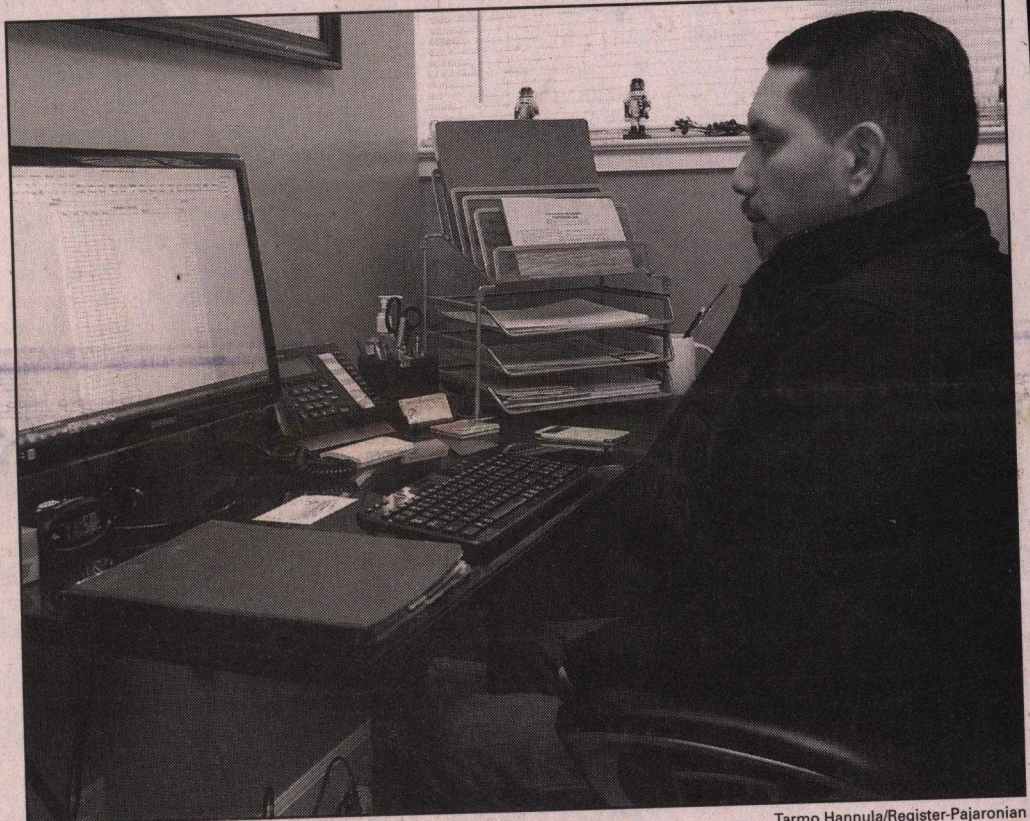
The clinic offers "medication-assisted treatment," which combines medication, counseling and other support services.

Opiate addiction is pervasive in Santa Cruz County, and while injectable heroin is still the drug of choice, close at its heels are prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Krebs said.

Krebs said that she expects to see a rise in admissions with the Affordable Care Act set to take effect in January. Under the new law, many people will newly qualify for MediCal, meaning that they will be able to receive treatment services.

In addition, newly enacted Assembly Bill 109, otherwise known as Public Safety Realignment, among other things allows certain offenders to get treatment instead of jail time.

"And that's what they needed all along," Krebs said.



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Guillermo Rodriguez is the clinical supervisor at Janus.

"Better health care for individuals and families has always been our goal, but we want to see communities benefit from the lower crime rates and increased public safety that accompany increased treatment

opportunities," she said.

Janus is located at 284 Pennsylvania Ave. in Watsonville. Its hours are Monday through Friday from 5-9 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday

from 6-8 a.m. The business office and counseling hours are 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call 319-4200 or visit www.janussc.org.