

Flower Mound welcomes first emergency room

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From 10 a.m. to noon Monday, members of the business community celebrated the opening of the Flower Mound 24 Hour Emergency Center.

Beginning at 1 p.m., the doors were open for anyone who needed emergency attention.

The center, located at 4351 Long Prairie Road, features 12 beds, including two pediatric-themed rooms, a trauma/code room, two negative pressure rooms and a laboratory with a blood bank.

Plus, Flower Mound Imaging, an out-patient imaging center, is located in the emergency center and features a radiology suite with PACS technology, including CT, X-Ray, ultrasound and fluoroscopy testing. Flower Mound Imaging also specializes in women's imaging services such as digital mammography, ultrasound and bone-density testing.

It is not only the first emergency facility in Flower Mound, but also is being called the first of its kind in Dallas/Fort Worth.

"There are a lot of urgent care centers in Dallas/Fort Worth, but to my knowledge, this is the only one that's open 24/7," said Doug Welch, CEO of Medical Center of Lewisville.

Welch also said the center, which is associated with Medical Center of Lewisville, accepts patients with any type of health insurance, as well as Medicare and Medicaid, adding that a lot of emergency centers do not.

Also, unlike many emergency facilities, Flower Mound's new center is contracting with a private ambulance company and will have an ambulance on site that is shared with Medical Center of Lewisville. Welch said that's important to eliminate ambulance travel time in an emergency.

"Let's say Bartonville needed to use an ambulance," Welch said. "If it had to travel to Lewisville and then back to Bartonville, that's time that it's not in their community."

Officials also touted the experience level of the board-certified physicians and registered nurses at the facility.

"We have a very seasoned group of nurses," said Ashley McClellan, vice president and chief operating officer for Medical Center of Lewisville. "Many of them have advanced certification. That, and the number of years of experience our nursing staff has, is very valuable."

While the centers officials say its offerings set it apart from other urgent care facilities, the impact it will have in Flower Mound is an added bonus. Until now, residents who needed 24-hour emergency attention had to go to Lewisville or Grapevine.

"Southern Denton County has grown fast," Welch said. "There's an under supply of emergency rooms, so at times, there is overcrowding. But this gives the area 12 more emergency room treatment areas and faster access to a physician."

Many dignitaries from the area, including Denton County Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell and Flower Mound Town Council members Al Filidoro and Steve Dixon, were in attendance. Filidoro said the facility is a big step for the future of medical care in Flower Mound, noting the future opening of Flower Mound Presbyterian Hospital, as well as an incoming rehabilitation center.

"This center represents a major milestone for our town," Filidoro said. "Soon to be joined by the

addition of a full-service hospital, it brings much needed medical services for the residents of our community. I hope to see more additions to our medical community in the coming year.”