

Times-Herald

Vallejo's new quarters for county services draw dedication crowd

By Sarah Rohrs

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Solano County supervisors Linda Seifert, center left, and Barbara Kondylis share the ribbon-cutting duties at the dedication ceremony Tuesday for the county's new Health and Social Services building. (Mike Jory/Times-Herald)

At a time when more people need social services to get by, the county has completed a new Vallejo

building to provide mental health, child welfare and other services.

The new Solano County Health and Social Services building at 365 Tuolumne St. is open for business, and nearly 100 officials were on hand for Tuesday's dedication.

"These are challenging times and it's important for the public (agencies) to join together so the public does not suffer from lack of services," Mayor Osby Davis said at the ribbon-cutting event.

The city of Vallejo was a key player in completing the project, several county administrators said.

The facility expands the ability of the county's Health and Social Services Department to help needy children, adults and families in the Vallejo-Benicia area, officials said.

The \$38 million, three-story building is adjacent to the existing county social services building behind the Solano County Justice Center in the 300 block of Tuolumne Street.

Health and Social Services Executive Director Patrick Duterte said the building says to needy people "you matter, and that says a lot to people here in Solano County."

The building allows the county to provide services in one location rather than requiring people to seek services in several settings,

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Duterte said.

Services offered in the new setting include the following -- primary care, mental health, public health, substance abuse, child welfare, employment, Medi-Cal, food stamps and older & disabled adult services.

Services are immediately accessible to those who are eligible.

In the declining economy, demand for health and social services has increased 10 percent, according to the county.

The building also includes a public plaza for community gatherings, public art, water fountain and landscaping.

The bulk of the funding to pay for the new building stems from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, a 1998 pact involving the nation's four largest tobacco companies.

Contact staff writer Sarah Rohrs at srohros@timesheraldonline.com or (707) 553-6832.

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