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Broad-Based Alternative Health Center Opens in NY

By Editorial Staff

In today's managed care environment, many critics believe that cost, not quality, is the overriding factor in the way health care is delivered. But Louis Woerner and B. Thomas Golisano believe in changing the delivery of health care and putting the individual back at the center of the system. To that end, the two Rochester entrepreneurs have invested nearly three-quarters of a million dollars towards opening the Equipoise Center of America in Henrietta, New York.

The Equipoise center, a total of 30 practitioners in chiropractic, acupuncture, herbalism, massage therapy and other disciplines will share space under one roof. Equipoise will also offer seminars, resources on the latest research into alternative therapies, and computerized health-risk appraisals.

"Health care in our country is really illness care, and I've been very concerned with as much money we spend (that) we really haven't realized the potential for health that we should," said Mr. Woerner, who runs an organization that provides home care, health care consulting and wellness services.

Whether Henrietta and the surrounding communities will support Equipoise remains to be seen, but if all goes well, Golisano and Woerner have plans to open additional centers in other cities. As Nicki Riddell, the operator of Alternative Answers, a local referral service, says, "The concept is great. The time has come, because I think people maybe are afraid to try something like this, and this gives it a little credibility ... and a safe environment."

Substance Abuse Program Appoints NY Chiropractor

Dr. Stephen Eble, a 1981 graduate of New York Chiropractic College, who resides in Mount Kisco, NY, has been appointed by the New York State Board of Regents to the Professional Assistance Program (PAP). Dr.

Eble will serve a five-year term that runs through the year 2002.

PAP is a voluntary program to help professional that abuse drugs or alcohol. One PAP representative is appointed from each of the 33 licensed professions in the state. As such, Dr. Eble will represent the more than 5,200 licensed chiropractors in the state of New York.

Dr. Eble explained how PAP works: "A professional with an addiction problem voluntarily comes to us and surrenders his or her license. They are then placed in a rehabilitation program. Upon completion of the program, they are evaluated and, if justifiable, their license is reinstated and they are set up in a minimum two-year monitoring program. It's all done very privately."

"We are an avenue for someone to receive help without losing their license," explained Dr. Eble. "I am very encouraged. It's a great program. We don't have all the answers, but it's a movement in the right direction."



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