

## Bixby Encourages Employee Health

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In a partnership between the City of Bixby and CareATC, a near-site clinic has opened at 12800 S. Memorial in Bixby. On Oct. 3 at 4:30 p.m., the Bixby Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and the entire community is invited. This will mark CareATC's fifth multi-employer near-site clinic in Northeast Oklahoma.

Beginning in September, all city of Bixby employees and covered dependents have access to its five northeastern Oklahoma clinics. CareATC clinics consist of Board Certified Family Medicine Physicians and Certified Medical Assistants who treat acute and chronic illnesses. During working hours, patients experience little to no wait time; all services provided in the clinic are free to the patient, including formulary prescriptions, labs and x-rays.

“ . . . We concluded some time ago we could not afford to wait on Washington to solve the issue of rising health care costs for us, and instead decided to take control of our situation, for the sake of all who depend on us,” says Bixby City Manager Doug Enevoldsen.

Providing improved employee access to primary health care services, Enevoldsen believes, will reap benefits for taxpayers by decreasing employee sick days and limiting future health care costs. Currently, Bixby is the only municipality in the Tulsa Metropolitan area that is facilitating employee health clinics with CareATC.

CareATC has offered public and private employers cost-effective healthcare solutions since 2000. It operates more than 60 clinics across the nation and focuses on chronic disease management, prevention, and wellness through its proprietary Be Well program.

Other public entities that CareATC currently partners with in Oklahoma are the city of Muskogee, Muskogee EMS, Tulsa Firefighters and Tulsa Fraternal Order of Police.

“Operating with fewer employees per capita than virtually every other municipality in the Tulsa Metro region requires that we at the city of Bixby be both cost-conscious and innovative, so as to stretch our limited resources as far as possible,” says Enevoldsen. “We see assuring their continued health as critical to our mission of providing quality public services to our rapidly growing population. That in turn helps us remain a healthy community.”