



Dr. Robert Almquist  
...Family medicine specialist  
**Dr. Almquist**  
**Joins C.W. Williams**  
**Health Center Staff**

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer  
The addition of two full-time physicians to the staff of the C. W. Williams Health Center means expanded services for patients at the private, not-for-profit medical facility located at 3333 Wilkinson Blvd.

Doctors Robert Almquist and Michael Metcalf are both recent arrivals in Charlotte. Dr. Almquist, a native of Bergen, N.Y., completed a family medicine residency in Chapel Hill. He is a graduate of Yale College in New Haven, Ct., and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Noting that family medicine is a "full-fledged specialty which requires a three-year residency, board certification, and recertification every seven years." Dr. Almquist explained that his medical training included child and adult health, obstetrics, and behavioral medicine. Behavioral medicine refers to the psychological or emotional components of illness. For example, a person might not only have heart disease, but be depressed about it.

Being able to "treat the whole person fights fragmentation in medical care," remarked Dr. Almquist. Also, "knowing the whole family system can be helpful in treating the individual," he added. With their emphasis on primary care, family physicians refer patients to specialists when necessary; but often the family medicine practitioner can solve the problem, at a savings in time and money for the patient, he noted.

Dr. Almquist said he was impressed by the Center's "well-defined and admirable goals" and expects to be part of the staff for a considerable period of time.

Dr. Michael Metcalf of Detroit will begin his full-time duties at the Center shortly. A graduate of Dartmouth College in Hanover, Vt., and Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, Dr. Metcalf completed a residency in internal medicine at the District of Columbia General Hospital. His work at the Center will concentrate on adult health needs.

Dr. Metcalf, who will be emphasizing preventive medicine, is enthusiastic about coming on board. "I was interested in an urban-based practice in a group setting," he explained as his reason for joining the staff. "I hope to provide good quality medical care for the people served at the Center."

According to Thelma Council, director of the Center since its opening in October, 1981, the C. W. Williams Health Center provides people "affordable, accessible, and available health care," on the west side of town. Ms. Council emphasized that the facility is "not just for low income people," although fees are determined by a sliding scale based on household income and size. Medicare, Medicaid, other insurance, MasterCard, and VISA are all accepted. There is a minimum fee for all services regardless of income level. "A lot of private patients don't know they can come here," she added.

With the addition of these two new physicians, plus a pediatrician due to join the Center in September, Council hopes to be able to expand the Center's services, including the reinstatement of prenatal services. In addition, there will be an orientation toward changing lifestyles and "promoting health rather than just treating what's wrong."

New hours at the Center are 9-5:30, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 9-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

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Program elements and results are described in a short brochure, "Alternative Treatment for Chronic Drunk Driving Offenders - The Vanderburgh County Indiana Approach." Other brochures available in the same series include "The Drunk Driver May Kill You," and booklets telling of drunk driving programs in Texas and Louisiana that can be duplicated elsewhere.

Brochures may be ordered from the Advocacy Programs Division, Allstate Insurance Company, Allstate Plaza F3, Northbrook, II 60062.

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