



Elizabeth Blackwell--first woman doctor in the United States.

background

We are a collective of about 20 women who have been meeting since Spring, 1973. We now express our varying levels of committment through task forces relating specifically to the programs outlined above. We maintain internal communication and cohesion through a steering committee composed of one representative from each task force. We also have a monthly general meeting to which everyone is invited. We staff an office which is open every weekday. We invite women to use our files and library, and to look over the literature we have for sale. And, we still operate a phone referral service.

Elizabeth Blackwell Women's
Health Center
2000 S. 5th St.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404



ELIZABETH BLACKWELL WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER



2000 S. 5th St.
Cedar-Riverside People's
Center
10-5 Monday-Friday
335-7669

introduction

The Elizabeth Blackwell Women's Health Center grew out of the Women's Counseling Service and opened Feb. 6, 1974. Our collective experience led us to believe that the real needs in the area of women's health lay in knowledge and control.

We exist for the following reasons:

--to change the way health care is presently delivered by the use of consumer control and pressure.

--to give women access to information about their bodies so that they can maintain their health.

--to encourage a synthesis of women's emotional and physical health and to do so by offering counseling in all areas, by both trained counselors and professional women therapists.

--to facilitate a preventive rather than acute focus in health care.

--to teach women the techniques of self-examination and by so doing give them back the tools for controlling their bodies.

--to put pressure on the drug companies, medical corporations, and research institutes to make their products more responsive to the needs of the people.

--to help women deal with their oppression emotionally, politically, and medically, and to help each other grow as women and as individuals.



program

We presently have a program that grew from our health education focus. This program is not permanent. We see the Center expanding and new programs developing as more people become involved.

Wednesday Night Open-House

We give a presentation every Wednesday night--a short introduction to the Center, our history and philosophy, some issues of women's health, and self-help skills. No registration is needed for this session and it will be given every Wednesday night at 7:30 PM. We offer a packet of information at this time which covers some basic aspects of women's health (\$2)* and also a plastic speculum with literature (\$1)*.

Speaker's Bureau

We will speak with your group on a variety of topics including feminism, women's health, birth control, and self-help. Contributions are appreciated.

Health Classes

We are facilitating a health class in nine sessions (nine weeks) which will briefly cover the following topics: feminist issues, female anatomy, hormone system and menopause, birth control and abortion, VD and vaginitis, preventive medicine, and some alternative forms of medicine. There is a fee of \$15* for the course which covers all materials and books. We urge you to call to find out the times of classes and to sign up. These are basic courses and if people would like to form in-depth study groups around specific topics we can facilitate this.

Patient Advocacy and Referral

We are presently compiling information on doctors and medical facilities with the intention of insuring consumer control. We hope to make our referrals as complete and up to date as possible. We will also be making provisions for patient advocates to go with women to the medical facility of their choice.

Counseling

There are trained counselors available for peer counseling and to facilitate rap groups. We also refer to feminist therapists for long-term counseling. We are asking for a donation for the first visit and \$2 for each subsequent visit.

*All fees are suggested. We are quite willing to work out agreements with women who cannot afford these.