

Model drug center to open in Peoria

By SCOTT WILLIAMS
of the Journal Star

Just in time to join the new national crusade against drug abuse, Peoria is about to become the home of a state-of-the-art drug treatment center to be used as a model for other such facilities across Illinois.

The White Oaks Center, scheduled to open in early November, will be the first of a half-dozen clinics in the state to offer everything from short-term treatment to long-term rehabilitation and scientific research.

Susan Duvall, regional manager of the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, said her department will use the Peoria facility as the prototype for five other clinics planned around the state.

Officials of the Human Service Center are building the million-dollar facility. They intend to transfer operations there from the Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse, currently located near downtown.

The White Oaks Center is being built on a six-acre site just off Willow

Knolls Road, nestled within the park-like atmosphere of a wooded area that organizers hope will prove more conducive to recovery from drug addiction.

Michael Boyle, assistant executive director of the Human Service Center, said the facility will combine services typically offered by agencies like his with treatment generally available only through hospitals.

Alcoholics and other drug addicts previously referred to St. Francis Medical Center will be sent to the White Oaks Center instead.

The 40-bed facility will include hospital-type rooms for patients who need short-term medical treatment and dormitory-type rooms for those who need long-term counseling and rehabilitation.

Designed by the Peoria architectural firm of Peacock & Steen and interior decorator Marianne Bibb, the four-wing clinic probably will look as much like a country club as a drug

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