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HEALTH

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local hospital."

Delays in regular facilities maintenance are affecting the current state of the health center, Mittle said. The temperature inside certain areas of the facility overheats.

"The lab where we do our blood tests overheats, because the heating doesn't flow right in the building," Mittle said. "The temperature gets too hot and we have samples that have to be stored at a specific temperature in order to test."

Mittle said the student health center building is 20 percent over capacity.

"There is not enough room to hold the staff," Mittle said.

There are multiple solutions to the healthcare shortage being discussed. One option is telepsychiatry. Telepsychiatry is a video consultation with an outsourced psychiatrist in a different location.

"Students would come in the health center, sit in front of a large screen and have a conversation with a psychiatrist who is somewhere else in California," Mittle said.

"The psychiatrist will work with our team on campus. The students will be able to walk down to the pharmacy and pick up their prescription."

Health Education and Clinic Support lead Mira Friedman supervises the clinical peer health educators on campus.

"The peer-to-peer service helps with the clinic's wait times."



The student health and wellness services building under construction to replace a rickety beam on March 14 at Marshall State University. Regular facility maintenance delays are affecting the current state of the health center.

"We can't provide better service in the current space, [because] we've outgrown it. Part of the reason we've outgrown it is because health services aren't just the services we provide. Other things that are tied to health is physical, mental and other basic needs."

—Brian Mittle
Director of Student Health and Wellness Services

"It allows our medical providers to see more students with complex issues," Friedman said.

The clinical peer educators are not physicians. They are paired up with a medical provider if they have medical questions. Each peer educa-

tor is paid minimum wage. Clinical peer educators work a minimum of 20 hours and a maximum of 20 hours a week. Friedman holds weekly staff meetings as well as an individual weekly check-in with the clinic's peer educators.

Kelsey Meunberger, a clinical peer educator since August of 2017, says she feels empowered helping students.

"I only talk to students who are not showing signs of symptoms," Meunberger said. "When they show signs of symptoms I refer them to

the Gold Clinic."

The Gold Clinic is reserved for more urgent matters.

The state of the student health center building was designed 60 years ago and has not been updated. The building needs to have repairs made in order to function.

"The front of the building where the roof is rotting," Mittle said. "We had to replace a beam, [and] that's why there is construction outside."

There are two separate fees that go toward health services. One fee is for the physicians, the second is for the health center facilities. Both fees are being proposed to increase in order to improve the current healthcare conditions.

"It would cost about \$66 per student per semester to repair. For another \$30, a brand new health center could be built," Mittle said. "It seems like a much better idea than spending a lot of money fixing the current health center."

The Student Fee Advisory Committee is going to help decide the best way to adjust the health fees and increased funding.

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Kelsey Meunberger may be contacted at kmeunber@marshall.edu