Drug abuse help now available to women

By The Advertiser Staff

Women in Acadiana are now being offered free outpatient help in overcoming drug abuse, thanks to city, state and other officials.

The Acadiana Recovery Center was ceremonially opened Tuesday by Mayor Kenny Bowen, City Council member F.V. “Pappy” Landry, State Rep. Don Higginbotham and other officials.

The center, located at 207 W. Main St., across from the 15th Judicial District Courthouse, began operating six weeks ago. Counselors have already seen 15 to 20 women, 10 of them on a regular basis, according to a report Tuesday.

The center’s staff — one full-time employee and eight part-time — work with women and their dependent children on an outpatient basis, by referral only from the Lafayette Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic.

“Ice storm warning” is reserved for occasions when significant, and possibly damaging, accumulations of ice are expected.

Clients must have first gone through a 30-day inpatient program sponsored by the Lafayette Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic, which is located in the Acadiana Mental Health building at 400 St. Julien or can be reached by calling 262-5870.

The recovery center’s goal is to help clients learn to live, and to enjoy life, without mood-altering chemicals. Its $134,000 annual operating budget is with state funding, channeled through Lafayette city government.

The program is for people with limited or no income.

The staff consists of a clinical coordinator and family therapist, an individual social services counselor, a group social services counselor, a physician, a licensed practical nurse, an office manager, a childcare supervisor and a community service coordinator.

City and state officials hope to expand the recovery center to a full-service one, open to men, women and children.

The childcare program at the center — for women who are in treatment — helps the clients attend, said Tim Breaux, city substance abuse program coordinator.

Many women would cancel appointments at other centers because they could not find a babysitter.

Childcare “seems to pretty successful because the kids are reminding their moms about their appointments,” Breaux said.