

OSH Recovery Times

Volume 3, Issue 6



June 2007

Plans for Construction Move Forward

Plans for construction of the first of two new state psychiatric facilities are moving forward with the Salem site being inspected for construction suitability, hiring of key project managers and formation of committees to involve stakeholders and keep the project on track.

The project, which anticipates legislative budget approval this spring to support its first phase, will build a 620-bed state-operated psychiatric facility on the south side of Center Street in Salem where the current hospital stands and a 360-bed psychiatric facility on Oregon Department of Corrections property in Junction City.

Involved from the beginning, state hospital staff continue to participate in all aspects of the project, with Deputy Superintendent Maynard Hammer managing on-site activities.

Salem site suitable

The state engaged the Hammes Company, a healthcare developer and real estate consulting firm with regional offices in Portland, to review the Salem site to ensure its suitability for construction. Although the firm found some minor issues, it concluded in its summary report that it saw no issues that would prevent construction.

The safety and security of patients and staff will be paramount considerations during construction, which is scheduled to begin in 2009. That will involve moving staff and patients to the north side of Center Street, for which options of remodeling existing buildings or using modular units are being explored. This is among areas in which state hospital staff members are working.

Staffing the project

Named as administrator to manage all aspects of the project was Linda Hammond, who has been active in the process as budget administrator for the DHS Addictions and Mental

Health Division. Hammond holds degrees in psychology and business with a specialization in operational management and has held high-level jobs in both the public and private sectors.

“Linda’s heart is in the program and developing services for those who must rely on the public sector to meet their immediate needs for health, safety and treatment,” said Bob Nikkel, DHS assistant director for addictions and mental health. Meanwhile, Richard Ross was named construction manager.

**“CONSTRUCTION”
cont. on page 2**

In this issue....

Core Values: Responsibility.....	2
Diversity Meal	3
June Calendar.....	3
Welcome.....	3
OSH Team Reaches the Beach	4
Diversity Spotlight	4
Gay Pride Celebration.....	6
EDD Schedule.....	6

Examining Core Values: Responsibility

By Lisa Harnisch, Core Values Project Manager, Office of Human Resources Training Unit

Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually. —The Dalai Lama

OSH has relationships with several populations —patients, the public, healthcare providers, volunteers, students, contractors, other governmental bodies and the legislature. Each of these relationships requires us to accept different responsibilities, and we must manage these responsibilities.

However, the demands at times are great and often put workers in a dilemma of not being able to meet the many demands and expectations. The challenge lies in being diligent about carrying the work from the value of responsibility, yet being realistic about what is possible. How do you deal with the reality of not being able to meet every responsibility or expectation? There is no magic answer, and the questions are likely to get more difficult as we move forward with plans for construction of the first of two new state psychiatric facilities. We will be responsible for continuing to deliver high-quality patient care under stressful situations, possibly in less than optimal treatment and office spaces.

However, we will also have the opportunity to be responsible for providing input that will not only change our facilities and information systems, but also change the way we provide mental health services in Oregon.

We will manage competing priorities with the full understanding that our actions will have an impact. We have colleagues, supervisors and others to help us meet our individual and collective responsibilities, but it must start with us.

In order to examine Core Values in a way that is most relevant to people at OSH, *we need your input.* If you have an ethical dilemma you would like to see addressed, we would like to hear about it. Submissions will be confidential. Email stories to core.values@state.or.us.

“CONSTRUCTION” cont. from page 1...

Ross, who worked at the state hospital early in his career, has managed many large state construction projects, most recently the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training facility in east Salem. Ross and Hammond both have offices on the hospital’s Salem campus.

AMH forms committees

Three committees will meet regularly:

- OSH Replacement Project Work Unit, which meets weekly, is responsible for managing and coordinating all aspects of the project. It comprises the construction team, information systems team and business team.
- OSH Replacement Project Management Committee, which meets bi-weekly, provides oversight and is composed of 11 people including four state hospital representatives.
- OSH Replacement Project Stakeholders Committee, which will meet quarterly, will keep legislators, advocates, consumers, union representatives, community partners, district attorneys, state budget staff, agency staff and others updated on the project’s progress.

To help manage what is expected to be a \$450 million, three-biennium project to build two new state psychiatric facilities, DHS plans to engage a professional construction firm to provide on-site management of the project.

Welcome, Richard O'Brien

By Nancy Frantz-Geddes

Please join with me in welcoming our new Nurse Epidemiologist, Richard L. O'Brien, RN, B.S.N. Richard graduated from the University of Portland with a B.S.N. in 1991. He has an extensive nursing background including ICU and OB Clinical Care Coordinator in Soldotna, Alaska, Assistant Head Nurse for Providence Portland Medical Center, External Audit Medical Investigator for The Regence Group, and most recently, he served as a Healthcare Investigator/Adviser for the Oregon State Board of Nursing.

Richard is a marvelous addition to our Nursing Executive team and to the hospital overall. He completed orientation May 18, and will likely be seen in your areas soon as he further orients to our organization. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and personally welcome him to the hospital.

I would like to acknowledge and extend my personal gratitude to Walt Lockett, RN who has operated in the interim Nurse Epidemiologist role for more than a year. Walt has provided exceptional service during the past year and has survived at least four viral outbreaks, a Joint Commission survey, a Department of Justice review and Ed Day every other week—truly miraculous work, Walt! Additionally, my thanks go to Ann Melendy for her support of Walt and the Infection Control Department, and to Nancy Johnston and Angelika Schmoll, both of whom provided Infection Control Department coverage. Once again, it takes a village. My thanks go to you all!

Diversity Meal

By Heike Tash

OSH food services will serve a special lunch on June 26, Madagascar's Independence Day.

It will consist of Madagascar chicken (coconut chicken), rice, sweet pea soup, injera (flat bread), lasary voatabia (tomato and green onion salad) and salady voankazo (fruit compote).



Flag of Madagascar

The Republic of Madagascar (called Repoblikan'i Madagasikara in Malagasy) is an island country off the coast of southeastern Africa in the Indian Ocean. It is the fourth largest island in the world. People first traveled to Madagascar in boats from continental Africa about 2,000 years ago. Today the people of Madagascar are a mixture of Asian (Austronesian) and African, with some people from the Middle East.

June Calendar

7th — 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive

Administration

Contact Marilyn Nichols:
(503) 945-2859

11th — 10:30 am

OSH Foundation Meeting

OSH Portland

Contact Jessica Loewen Preis:
(503) 945-2892

15th — 8:15 am

Wellness Committee

Callan Room

Contact Sue Wimmer:
(503) 945-2886

19th — 12:00 pm

**Gay Pride Month
Celebration**

50 Building Gym

Contact Rebecca A. Sweetland:
(503) 945-2806

20th — 1:30 pm

Valuing Diversity Committee

Brooks Room

Contact Rebecca A. Sweetland:
(503) 945-2806

27th — 2:30 pm

General Staff Meeting

30 Building Gym

Contact Pam Dickinson:
(503) 945-2852

OSH Team Reaches the Beach

By Toby Keady

Several OSH employees were among the thousands of bicycle riders who descended upon Pacific City on the Oregon Coast Saturday, May 19. The riders were participants in “Reach the Beach,” a fundraising effort for the American Lung Association. Monies raised went to fund research, treatment and publicity for causes and cures of respiratory diseases.

Riders started from a variety of locations including Salem, Portland, Corvallis, Amity and Grand Ronde to make the trek to the coastal town, cruising through scenic countryside and enjoying rest stops well stocked with energy replenishing foods and drink.

The weather was nearly perfect for the occasion with cool overcast skies early, later changing to mostly sunny. Riders enjoyed finish line festivities at the Pelican Pub. Music from KINK-FM, vendor tents and a catered buffet awaited the riders at the beachfront establishment.

OSH participants included Barry Jones (50J), Cindy Gardner (50F), John Leonard (50C), Matt Pebley (50D), Aryn Monaghan (50H), Ron Liedkie (50F), Karen Kuhlman (50H) and Toby Keady (HR).

Registration fees for the event were \$25.00, as well as a minimum \$50.00 sponsorship donation per rider. The OSH Wellness Committee helped defray the costs for the employee riders by contributing \$200.00 to the cause.



OSH Reach the Beach participants included (from left) Matt Pebley, Barry Jones, Aryn Monaghan, Karen Kuhlman, and John Leonard.

Diversity Spotlight

By Rebecca A. Sweetland

Nancy Frantz-Geddes, OSH Director of Nursing, is used to being in the public eye. A long-time and outspoken advocate for gay rights, Nancy is often quoted in the local newspaper, shown demonstrating on television and testifying before various legislative committees. She does whatever she feels is necessary to raise the public's awareness of the gross inequities prevalent for gays, lesbians and their families in Oregon.

Although born in Salem, Nancy grew up in the small logging community of Molalla where her father was a high school teacher and a coach. During her last year at Western Oregon State College, Nancy met Peggy, her partner for the past 23 years. Peggy is now an elementary school P.E. teacher in Salem. Nancy went on to get her RN degree from Chemeketa. After a brief stint at Salem Hospital, she began working at OSH in 1987. Nancy “came out” after only one year at OSH because she felt safe and supported by the 34A staff, where she was to be the nursing supervisor for 10 years. The staff continued to show their support, including throwing a baby shower when Peggy became pregnant in 1995 with their son, Carter. Nancy

“DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT”
continued on page 5

“DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT” continued from page 4

moved on to be a nurse educator for six years, EDD interim director for a year, 50G and 41A unit director for two years and then to her current position as the Director of Nursing in 2006. Nancy never felt discriminated against at OSH and has often been

consulted when either staff or patients “came out.”

Although OSH is supportive of Nancy and her family, the world is not. For years Nancy and Peggy generated a lot of press concerning gay marriage and the right to have federally recognized civil unions that afford benefits and protections for their family that were equal to any other committed family.

She eloquently tells the story of how emergency room personnel would not allow both her and Peggy to accompany their eldest son, Carter, while he received stitches, stating, “We’re sorry but only one mom can go back.” Another couple, who happened to be of different genders, were allowed to accompany their child, no questions asked or marriage certificate required.

Although very happy about House Bill 2007 with its domestic partnership provisions and protections in the state of Oregon, which was signed into law in May, Nancy still expects a fight to keep these rights as a family.

sixth-grader at Howard Street Middle School. He plays football, contact lacrosse, the tuba and sings in the choir and ensemble. Cooper is a third-grader at Myers Elementary. He loves art, math, reading, and recently ran in the Awesome 3000. His

“It’s important that people just value each other for who they are.”

highlight of that performance was being quoted in the Statesmen Journal.

This family has a good time, often laughing and

Nancy considers her family to be as normal as the next, complete with mini-van, mortgage payments, sport activities and neighborhood barbecues. Obviously family-oriented, Nancy and Peggy continue to be proactive in their children’s schools, volunteering in the classroom, chairing various events and being out of the closet and visible to put a clear face on what a gay family looks like. Their family really isn’t any different and they have experienced acceptance by the children, their parents and the staff, with no difficulties. Times are indeed changing for the better.

playing hard. Nancy characterizes her family as “silly, entertaining and incredibly devoted.” All the family members are outdoor enthusiasts, but Nancy goes the extra mile. A spectacular athlete, she was an All-American tennis player in college, and now a 2007-2008 Boston marathon qualifier with a time of 3:49 in the Portland marathon last year.

While Nancy is very comfortable with being gay and being out, she doesn’t consider her homosexuality a singular defining characteristic. Her life is much more than any narrow definition may impart. Nancy encourages folks to get to know each other, without labels. “It’s important that people just value each other for who they are,” she says.

Pride radiates from Nancy as she talks about her social and talented children. Carter is a

Gay Pride Celebration Planned

By Rebecca A. Sweetland

OSH strives to support the diversity of all our staff and patients. You are invited to come join the Gay Pride celebration on June 19, sponsored by the OSH Valuing Diversity Committee. Music, food and more will be provided in the 50 building gym. All are welcome!

A Short Background on Gay Pride

On July 4, 1965, 40 gays and lesbians held a demonstration in front of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, which became an annual event, expanding to other cities, setting the stage for the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City.

Police officers regularly targeted gay bars, including the Stonewall Inn. On June 27, 1969, the patrons of the Stonewall Inn (a crowd of 400, later growing to 2,000 people), gathered outside and watched officers arrest the bartender, doorman and a few others. The fed-up crowd chanted “Gay Power,” and with bottles and trashcans flying, the police beat the crowd away. For the next several nights the gays and police clashed. This pivotal event united the gay community in its fight against discrimination, thus beginning the annual June gay pride parades and celebrations nationwide.

The gay pride flag debuted at the 1978 San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. It was inspired by the Black civil rights and hippie movements. Each of the six colors on the horizontal striped flag has a different meaning: red (life), orange (healing), yellow (sun), green (nature), royal blue (harmony) and violet (spirit).

Well-known gays and lesbians include social reformer Jane Addams, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Olympic high diver Greg Louganis, composer Pyotr Tchaikousky and author Gore Vidal. Currently there is considerable tolerance of gays and lesbians in major Latin American countries, whereas those in Africa and the Middle East strongly object. Opinion in Europe is split between those in the west who tend to be accepting and those in the east who are not. The U.S. is evenly divided in that 51 percent are accepting and 49 percent are not.

This information is according to www.wikipedia.org.

EDD Schedule

Following is a list of classes being offered at the OSH Education and Development Department (EDD) during the remainder of June. All classes are located at EDD unless otherwise noted. Call 503-945-2875 for more information.

General Orientation

June 4 – 15, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Roadcraft Driver Training

June 4, 6, 11, 12, or 20, 1 – 5p.m., or June 12 or 20, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Ed Day

June 5 or 19, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Teleconference: Competency to Stand Trial

June 7, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CMA Pharmacology Class

June 7, 1 – 5 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training

June 12, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and June 13, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

DSM-IV Introduction

June 13 or 27, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Strength-Based Practice Introduction

June 13 or 27, 1 - 5 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training

June 14, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and June 15, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Stages of Change Introduction

June 14 or 28, 3 – 5 p.m.

General Orientation

June 18 – 29, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training

June 26, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and June 27, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training

June 28, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and June 29, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.