

OSH Recovery Times

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Planning for New State Psychiatric Facilities Moves Ahead

Planning for the first of two new state psychiatric facilities is moving forward vigorously with requests being issued seeking proposals for a project manager, architectural and engineering firm, construction manager and general contractor.

The size of the project, an estimated \$248 million for the 620-bed Salem facility, is expected to attract large firms with reputations for successfully managing major projects.

Construction of the Salem facility will begin in 2009 with scheduled 2011 completion, with a 360-bed Junction City facility opening two years later. State lawmakers in June approved a two-year budget for the project.

Before construction, which will occur on the south side of Center Street, the building site must be vacated. Until the new facility is designed, however, it will not be clear exactly what state hospital functions will need to move.

The agency's highest priority is the safe and least disruptive relocation of patients and associated treatment staff that meets housing and treatment needs. Options of remodeling other campus buildings or using modular structures already are being investigated by hospital and project leaders

Soon-to-be-hired project professionals will analyze these options further and recommend a plan that best meets the needs of patients, treatment staff and construction. Superintendent Marvin Fickle, M.D., has told the project management team that clinicians need to be located near the patients they serve.

Richard Ross, DHS construction manager for the project, said he expects a contracted project manager to be on the job by mid-August, an architectural and engineering firm by mid-September and a construction manager and general contractor by the end of October.

Meanwhile, Oregon Department of Human Services and state hospital officials are preparing

"TWO-YEAR BUDGET"
cont. on page 2

In this issue....

B-HIP Update	2
Core Values: Respect	3
July Calendar	3
Keeping Cool	4
Welcome New Staff	4
EDD Schedule	4
Fifth Annual Diversity Walk	5

"TWO-YEAR BUDGET" continued from page 1...

to meet soon with neighbors of the Salem campus to outline plans, timelines, impact on the neighborhood and explain where people may take further questions as they arise.

One of the things neighbors will be told is that the hospital-replacement project will have an informational presence on the DHS Web site where people may learn more about the construction project, the hospital's history, project planning thus far, as well having access to an extensive page

of frequently asked questions. The Web page is expected to be online this summer.

The project team, headed by Linda Hammond, whose office is on the Salem hospital campus, will work with appropriate government entities to ensure historical preservation issues are addressed and balanced with employee, patient and public safety.

A critical part of the project that has received less publicity

outside the hospital is planning for a new data system, known as the Behavioral Health Integration Project, for areas such as pharmacy, treatment and medication management. The 2007 Legislature approved funds for it in June.

Frequent reports about the overall project's progress will be made to DHS Director Bruce Goldberg, M.D., the Governor's Office and legislative leadership.

B-HIP Update

By Ben Kahn, B-HIP Director, Addictions and Mental Health Division

The Behavioral Health Integration Project (B-HIP) is moving forward at a fast pace. This effort will allow us to establish a Hospital Management System to use at the State Hospital.

Over the past two years, working with Fox Systems, Inc., we have identified 10 high-level business requirements for the hospital. These include Patient Care Services (including an Electronic Medical Record), Admit/Discharge/Transfer, Laboratory, Pharmacy, Food Services, Maintenance and others.

We have come a long way, but we still have much work to do, and we need your help to further define these requirements.

Beginning July 9 and continuing over the next two months, Fox Systems will be conducting interviews with key staff at OSH to better understand these high-level requirements.

With your help we will be better able to define the requirements for the new Information System that will

support OSH today and well into the future.

Once requirements are documented, we will be ready to release a request for proposals (RFP) to secure a software solution that will meet the State Hospital's needs. Please help us by cooperating with the staff from Fox Systems and providing the requested information.

Thanks for your assistance to date. For questions about the B-HIP project, contact the B-HIP Director, Ben Kahn, at ben.kahn@state.or.us.

Examining Core Values: Respect

By Patti Appleby, 50J Music Therapist

At DHS we define our core value of respect as “respecting the dignity and diversity of our colleagues, communities, and the people we assist.”

-Lisa Harnisch, DHS Core Values Project Manager

A perfect illustration of this value could be found at OSH on Tuesday, June 19. Patients and staff at OSH celebrated gay, lesbian and transgender culture as they filled the 50 building gym.

Confluence, the Willamette Valley’s GAYLA choir of gay, lesbian, transgender and straight singers from the Salem and Portland areas, performed. With contagious energy and a creative and dramatic approach, this group provided an entertainment spectrum that included humor, rhythm, flair and, at times, a humbling reminder of some of the serious and often avoided issues that surround gay, lesbian and transgendered individuals. In brightly colored t-shirts, they created a rainbow of color. The audience was soon clapping its appreciation.

With huge rainbow banners (created by a team of patients and staff on 50J), placed in the gym and on the 50 building, colored streamers throughout campus, and information tables with a wide array of available services and resources, it was a celebration of not only gay, lesbian and transgender culture, but of respect and acceptance of ourselves and those around us.

Ashley Eason, a teacher with the Supported Education Program, attended the celebration. “When I attended the Gay Pride Diversity Event with a resident, I found it to be a consciousness-raising experience,” she said. “It was good to see that it was well attended for a first-time event of this type, and, for me, the concert by Confluence (and the solo by Deb Lamp!) was the highlight. Kudos to the team that put this event together..”

With the hard work of organizers and support staff, those who attended were given the opportunity to learn and possibly expand their concept of cultural, diversity and respect. Diversity is around us everywhere, every day, and the celebration of diversity is something we often overlook. Each day, we interact with people and the more opportunities we have to learn together, share together and celebrate together, the greater the respect we have for each other will grow.

It is events like the Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Pride celebration that promote and support cultural diversity and respect not only at OSH, but also in our home and communities.

July Calendar

4th—Fourth of July Holiday

9th—10:00 am:

OSH Foundation

Callan Room

Contact Jessica Loewen Preis:
(503) 945-2892

11th—1:00 pm:

Friends of Forensics

Callan Room

Contact Deborah Howard:
(503) 945-7132

18th—1:30 pm:

Valuing Diversity Committee

Brooks Room

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

20th—8:15 am:

Wellness Committee

Callan Room

Contact Sue Wimmer:
(503) 945-2886

25th—2:30 pm:

General Staff Meeting

30 Building Gym

Contact Pam Dickinson:
(503) 945-2852

Keeping Cool

By John Hamilton

With summer here and the hot weather rapidly approaching, the OSH physical plant is pleased to announce the completion of a “cool” project.

OSH was able to contract with a Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) firm to install some much needed air conditioning in several of the patient treatment wards on the Salem campus.

During past summers, inside temperatures on some wards has exceeded 85 degrees—even well into the night.

The project installed split-unit air conditioning on wards 35A and C, 48B and C, 34A, and 41A, B and C. With the new AC units and some use of fans and open windows, patient common spaces and sleeping areas should be much cooler this summer.

The physical plant recommends using the air conditioning during the heat of the day, and then making use of open windows and fans to bring in the cooler nighttime air in the evenings. This is to prevent the air conditioner from ‘freezing up’ at night, rendering it ineffective. It also extends the life of the air conditioner and conserves electricity.

“KEEPING COOL”
continued on page 5

Welcome, New Staff

Dr. Arthur Tolan

By Marvin D. Fickle, MD

It is my great pleasure to welcome Dr. Arthur Tolan upon his return to OSH. Dr. Tolan accepted the position of Clinical Director and completed new employee orientation in June.

Many of you will remember Arthur warmly from his long tenure in the 1990s when he worked as a mental health specialist. He subsequently moved to the Department of Corrections where for the past four years, he has been the Administrator of Counseling and Treatment Services with responsibility for the mental health programs of the entire department.

I am confident that Dr. Tolan will be a strong and diligent addition to our executive team. Those who have worked with him over the past decade have greatly appreciated his patient-centered approach to management and departmental priorities.

Tyler St. Claire and Nick Maselli

By Vern Eggiman

Tyler St. Claire has joined the Community Transition Team as a Psychiatric Social Worker. Tyler has approximately nine years’ experience as a social worker in California. He has provided services with Child Protective Services, Family Home Health, Department of Children’s Services, County Mental Health and Residential Centers.

“WELCOME”
continued on page 5

July EDD Schedule

The following is a list of classes being offered at the OSH Education and Development Department (EDD) during July. All classes are located at EDD unless otherwise noted. For more information, please call 503-945-2875.

General Orientation

July 9-20, 8–5

Ed Day

July 10 or 24, 8–5

Humor as a Therapeutic Tool

July 13, 1–4

Pro-ACT Refresher Training

July 17, 8–5 and July 18, 8–12

Humor as a Therapeutic Tool

July 18, 7–10

CMA Pharmacology Class

July 18, 1–5

Pro-ACT Refresher Training

July 19, 8–5 p.m. and July 20, 8–12

General Orientation

July 23 – Aug. 3, 8–5

Pro-ACT Refresher Training

July 31, 8–5 and Aug. 1, 8–12

Fifth Annual Diversity Walk

By Judy Hanson

OSH's sixth annual Diversity Walk is on the horizon. Please join us Sept. 19 for a trip around the world without leaving campus.

Participants will be setting up tables on the lawn in front of the Communication Center (building 35). Each table will be hosted by staff and/or patients who have ties to the country or culture their table is representing. Displays will include pictures, decorations, snacks and information.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All staff and patients are welcome to check in, receive a passport and travel from table to table.

Currently we have nine confirmed tables, but would welcome more participants. If you would be interested in hosting a table, please contact Judy Hanson (503-945-7106) or Mesme Tomason (503-945-9874) by phone or via GroupWise.

We would love to have you share your heritage and culture with the rest of us. Education about different cultures helps us change our perceptions of others.

"KEEPING COOL" continued from page 4

This project was completely funded by the Institutional Housing portion of the Community Mental Health Housing Trust Fund from the proceeds of the sale of Dammasch State Hospital.

Initially there was some debate as to whether we should install the air conditioners in the 41 and 48 buildings, which may be slated for demolition in the near future.

The decision to air condition the two buildings was made because of extremely warm conditions in these buildings, knowledge that demolition will not occur until after the summer season, and the fact that air conditioners can be moved later to other areas of the hospital.

"WELCOME" continued from page 4

Tyler received his bachelor's in clinical psychology from La Sierra University in Riverside, and his master's of social work from California State University in San Bernardino.

Nick Maselli joined the Supported Employment Team on June 4 as an employment specialist. Nick worked seven and a half years at OSH with Willamette Education Service District as a transition specialist.

For the past four years Nick has served in counseling roles with DHS Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Pearl Buck Center, Children's Farm Home and Professional Consulting Service/Veterans Administration.

Nick received his bachelor's in social sciences and master's in rehabilitation counseling from Western Oregon University. He is a certified rehabilitation counselor.

Please join us in welcoming Tyler and Nick to the Community Reintegration Team.

Volunteers WELCOME

Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties



For information call (503) 373-1419

