



OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

Replacement Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Who decided to replace Oregon State Hospital?

The 2007 Oregon Legislature authorized funding estimated at \$458 million to build two new state-operated psychiatric facilities: a 620-bed facility in Salem and a 360-bed facility in Junction City. Both sites will be modern psychiatric treatment and recovery facilities designed for up-to-date psychiatric practices. They will be structured, along with a strengthened community mental health system, to support healing, recovery and a return to successful community living. The Salem facility is scheduled to open in 2011 and the Junction City facility in 2013.

Why did they decide the state needed these new facilities?

For at least 20 years, state lawmakers have heard from patients, advocates, citizens and staff about the inadequacy of the state hospital. In addition, the state has faced several challenges including legal suits over a variety of hospital deficiencies. Most recently, the U.S. Department of Justice reviewed conditions at the hospital and the state has received a federal report detailing their evaluation of the state hospitals deficiencies. To get the state hospital replacement work underway, the November 2004 legislative Emergency Board and the 2005 Oregon Legislature directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) - Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMHD), to analyze Oregon's mental health system and the state hospital in particular. DHS contracted with KMD Architects, and with the help of sub-contracted mental health experts; analyzed needs and documented them in the Mental Health Master Plan - Phase I and Phase II. These reports can be found on the DHS Web site at:

www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/osh/main.shtml.

www.oregon.gov/DHS/HRP/

The KMD analyses determined that the Oregon State Hospital buildings are unfit for modern psychiatry and in very poor repair. Most structures contain hazardous materials, and some may not be safe because of possible inability to withstand an earthquake. Part of the hospital's oldest structure dates to 1883; the hospital's newest building opened in 1955.

Will new buildings satisfy the state hospital's legal challenges?

New facilities will go a long way toward meeting the state's responsibility to ensure safety and security for both patients and staff. Besides constructing new buildings, the state also continues to work to improve the ratio of staff to patients by emphasizing the hiring of additional staff. In addition, the state will implement more evidence-based programs and practices that have been shown through scientific research to deliver the desired treatment results.

What will be built on the Center Street site in Salem?

DHS contracted with the Hammes Company to perform due diligence on the site to ensure that a new 620-bed mental health recovery facility can be developed on approximately 100 acres of the state-owned property, on the south side of Center Street N.E. This 100 acres is part of the existing Oregon State Hospital (OSH) site. Although Hammes Company representatives did not find anything that would prevent locating the new facility on this site, they did identify challenges to the

project including the provision of quality care to patients during construction and concerns about historical properties and trees.

A summary can be found at:

www.oregon.gov/DHS/HRP/

[www.oregon.gov/DHS/HRP/docs/Hammes Due Diligence.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/HRP/docs/Hammes_Due_Diligence.pdf)

Assuming the state can move forward on this property, the new facilities will include areas to house people receiving mental health treatment, spaces for counseling and treatment rooms, kitchen and dining areas, pharmacy, staff offices, and outdoor recreation, and other activities as the need arises.

What work have we observed on the site?

The Hammes Company completed due diligence testing (please see question 4, above). Work on the site at this time is usual campus maintenance not associated with the Replacement Project.

How was the Center Street site selected?

KMD Architects recommended two state psychiatric facilities, one located in the northern Willamette Valley and one located in Western Oregon south of Linn County. The Governor and legislative leaders subsequently named a committee to identify the desired siting criteria for new state-operated psychiatric facilities. The committee, composed predominantly of legislators, identified more than 30 siting criteria such as size, cost, zoning, topography, employee availability, and proximity to patient's families and access to public services (e.g., mental health treatment partners, library, fire, and police). The state conducted a public solicitation of properties whose owners or agents were willing to have them considered. Both privately and publicly owned parcels were offered. Six properties were offered in the Salem and Hillsboro areas for the northern site; 10 were offered for the southern site. Staff from both the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services evaluated properties against the legislatively mandated criteria.

The existing Salem hospital site on Center Street N.E. site emerged as the first choice for the northern site based on advantages such as no land-acquisition cost, appropriate zoning, patient

access to jobs in the community, public transportation and other services, long-standing community and neighborhood support, and patient and staff familiarity with the site. A state-owned property in Junction City in northern Lane County emerged as the top choice for the more southern hospital. This land also presents no acquisition cost and ranked higher than other available properties on many other criteria.

The report of site recommendations can be found on the DHS Web site at:

www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/osh/site-recommend/site-report-main.pdf.

A separate site-related Q&A document can be found on the DHS Web site at:

www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/osh/site-recommend/siting-qa.pdf.

www.oregon.gov/DHS/HRP/

When will construction begin? Where will it occur?

Assuming that the Center Street site is confirmed as appropriate for construction, building of the new state psychiatric facility would begin in the spring of 2009 and be completed in 2011. Prior to construction, patients now living on the south side of Center Street property will be relocated to other on-campus living space. Treatment staff for those patients and administrative staff will also be relocated as needed away from the construction activities as needed.



How long will construction continue? How will the neighborhood be affected?

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2009 and finish in 2011. The state and its contractors are committed to showing respect to everyone involved during that

time by ensuring that, to the extent possible, dust is controlled, noise and vibration are minimized, access to homes and businesses is maintained and traffic flow is minimally interrupted. Safety of workers, neighbors, and visitors will be paramount. Generally, work will be restricted to weekdays between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., although occasional overtime may be required for time-sensitive work. Contractors will be required to adopt noise and dust-control measures during construction.

Asbestos abatement and removal of lead-based paint will be the first order of work. Depending on the amount of these materials present, buildings or areas may be enclosed in plastic sheeting to ensure particles don't reach the surrounding neighborhood. This phase is expected to last about two months.

How much more neighborhood traffic will the new psychiatric facility generate?

Because the new facility will employ more staff than the current hospital there will likely be additional traffic in the neighborhood. DHS is conducting a traffic analysis that will be used to inform the placement of access roads. Efforts will be made to minimize impact to surrounding neighborhoods and the already heavily burdened Center Street.

What trees (and how many) will be removed?

Because a design for the new facility has not yet been developed, there is no way to predict how many trees would be affected. The existing campus provides a beautiful park-like setting, and the intent is to maintain that type of setting for the new psychiatric facility. During the due diligence work, trees have been marked for inventory purposes.

Landscape architects will be hired to design the grounds. Over the years many of the older trees on campus have been removed due to disease or instability. Those trees have always been replaced with several other trees. DHS will continue this practice for tree removal and replacement by one or more new trees in the new facility's plan.

Replacement of heritage trees will comply with all requirements.

How will the new psychiatric facility change the character of the neighborhood? How will property values be affected?

Oregon State Hospital has always tried to be a good neighbor, and the new psychiatric facility will be an even better one. The oldest part of the current hospital is the decrepit J Building, constructed from the 1880s to the 1920s, on the south side of Center Street. The newest major structure on the hospital campus opened in 1955.

By contrast, the new psychiatric facilities will be as modern as any in the nation. Residential property values are determined by many factors. To the extent that having a psychiatric facility in the neighborhood is one of those factors, replacing a dilapidated hospital with one that is among the nations newest and most modern should have a positive impact.

What sort of patients will receive treatment services in the new psychiatric facilities?

When the new psychiatric facilities open, the existing hospital population will be moved into them. For the most part, they will be placed in the facility that is closest and most accessible to family and friends in the community to which a patient will eventually return.

State-operated psychiatric facilities deliver treatment and care to three types of patients: those who are committed by a court after finding they are guilty of a crime except for insanity; those whose mental illness causes them to be a danger to themselves or others; and those whom a court determines need mental health treatment until they are prepared to participate in their own defense at trial. No children or adolescents are treated at the hospital.

Will the new facilities be more secure than Oregon State Hospital?

Security at the current Oregon State Hospital has been achieved by retrofitting

the old buildings with security devices and using fencing where needed. For the new facilities, new design and construction methods can enhance security. For example, the new psychiatric facilities might be constructed to provide people receiving treatment with access to a landscaped courtyard while relying on perimeter walls for security. In addition, modern effective electronic security systems will be built into the new structures.

Treatment professionals currently use a variety of methods, including using objective psychological exams and evaluations to determine which patients should be eligible for passes permitting them to leave the ward. These practices will continue in the new facilities.

Public safety is at the heart of decisions about whether to permit patients to walk on the hospital grounds or go into the community. When patients are at the point in their treatment where normal community activities are appropriate to their continuing recovery, they prepare for successful re-entry into the community by using public transportation, visiting the public library, working a job, attending a support group meeting and participating in other outside activities.

Aren't some of the buildings on the Salem site of historic value? How is the state going to deal with these structures?

The state hospital's best known building is that part of the cupola-topped J Building on the south side of Center Street. This section of that building opened in 1883. Both the Oregon Department of Corrections Dome Building on the north side of Center Street and the entire J Building on the south side of the street are listed with the City of Salem's Historic Landmark Commission. There are also private efforts underway to have the entire Oregon State Hospital Salem campus listed on the National Historic Registry.

DHS is committed to completing the re-development project while complying with all regulations governing historic properties. Until there is a design for the new structure and a corresponding footprint, the future of these and other campus structures will remain unknown. The design phase of the project began fall of 2007.

What will happen to the buildings and land on the north site of Center Street?

Until a design is developed for the new psychiatric facilities, the future need for the buildings and land north of Center Street is unknown. There may be a continued need for office, staff development, or other space that cannot be accommodated on the south side of Center Street.

How will neighbors be updated on the status of the project?

The state is committed to ensuring the public has answers to its questions. The Oregon Department of Human Services has convened a Stakeholders Group that will meet quarterly until the Junction City facility opens in 2013. The neighborhood associations are represented on that group. Neighbors also will be invited to meet with project and hospital staff to review facility models and draft plans as the project progresses. In addition, the Hospital Replacement Project (HRP) Web site will provide timely information about the project. It can be located at:

www.oregon.gov/DHS/HRP/

A sign will be posted on-site with the name, address and phone number of an Oregon Department of Human Services representative. This will enable people to obtain answers to questions or to lodge complaints about project-related activity.



Did the state consider building multiple, community-based 16-bed units in lieu of a second, large psychiatric facility?

Yes. That option was considered, and it became clear that both new psychiatric facilities and community-based residential programs were needed to adequately serve Oregonians with mental illness.

For the 2007-09 biennium, the state has legislatively authorized funds for three

community-based 16-bed programs; several similar programs were established during 2005-07.

Will consumers be involved in planning for the two new state psychiatric facilities and the patient memorial on the Salem site?

Yes. Consumers (people who have received community or state hospital mental health services) will have a number of opportunities to be involved. For example, the Oregon Department of Human Services has convened a Stakeholders Group that meets quarterly until the Junction City facility is opened in 2013. At least 20 percent of Stakeholders Group members will be consumers. Also, early in the planning stage stakeholders will be invited to meet with architects to discuss program and facilities needs. At critical points during the project consumers and others will be invited to meet with architects to review models and draft plans. This also occurred during the earlier stages of analysis and planning. These meetings will allow a larger number of interested persons, including consumers, to better understand and comment on the planning to date. Consumers also will be included in planning treatment programs.

How will current state hospital staff be involved in the planning for the two new state psychiatric facilities?

Staff members will have multiple opportunities to be involved in the project. Their labor unions will represent them on the Stakeholders Group. There also will be staff meetings at the hospital to gather staff comment, and staff members will be invited to meet with architects to provide initial input and review facility models and draft plans. Hospital managers are meeting regularly with the project staff to share staff comments, questions and issues. Project staff also will periodically meet directly with hospital staff.

How is the state involving its local partners such as mental health treatment providers, local law enforcement and the judicial system in planning the two new state psychiatric facilities?

Representatives from those groups and others will be invited to participate in the Stakeholders Group that will meet quarterly until the Junction City

facility is opened in 2013. In addition, planning for the new psychiatric facilities and the new community-based services will be a consistent agenda item during regularly scheduled separate meetings with many of these partners.

What work is the state doing in the Salem and Junction City areas to address the increased need for community services as well as community infrastructure to support the new facilities?

The Oregon Department of Human Services Addictions and Mental Health Division interact regularly with city and county representatives and with treatment providers in both areas to plan services. Infrastructure surrounding the Salem site will continue to support the new psychiatric facility, and project staff will be engaged with Junction City representatives on this issue. For example, although the Junction City site has public bus service, project staff will conduct more analysis to determine its adequacy to meet the needs of the new 360-bed facility. If public transportation were found to be inadequate, staff would meet with local transit authority and city representatives to explore options.

Does the state have policies to ensure that those communities don't pick up a disproportionate number of patients discharged from the state psychiatric facilities?

When appropriate, efforts are already made to help patients return to their home communities. Some counties have developed more community mental health resources than others, which can result in those counties serving people who were not residents when committed for treatment. Although the state does not have a policy that addresses this issue, steps are being taken to improve community mental health services in more parts of the state.

What is the state doing today to plan for and address the workforce issues (recruitment, retention) it will face at both new facilities?

The first step is determining the kind of treatment approach that will be provided in the new centers. National trends support a “treatment mall” approach where residents leave their living areas and go to a separate space, or treatment mall, to receive treatment. This more closely reflects a normal day in the community, which is important because most patients ultimately are discharged to the community.

The Oregon Department of Human Services is examining staffing models of other states’ treatment malls to determine how that information can inform Oregon’s planning. Federal staffing recommendations also are being examined. Even without knowing the exact number of staff needed, it is clear that more staff will be required.

A DHS-convened work group has completed a survey document that describes Oregon’s psychiatric nursing shortage and makes recommendations for securing additional nurses to work in the new psychiatric facilities. That document will be posted on the DHS Web site. DHS has also entered into an interagency agreement with the Oregon Health and Science University for a chief psychiatrist and up to six staff psychiatrists, in addition to stepping up national recruitment efforts for professional staff.

What is the state planning to name the new facilities?

No names have been selected. Whatever names are eventually selected will reflect the new facilities’ mission to be places of treatment and recovery.

If I wanted to volunteer at the state hospital, whom should I contact?

People interested in the diverse opportunities to volunteer at Oregon State Hospital are invited to contact Nichole Bathke either by e-mail at Nichole.M.Bathke@state.or.us, or by phone at 503-945-2864. The hospital has many volunteer Opportunities: among them are assisting with patient activities, being a clerical assistant, serving on the hospital foundation, working in the gift shop, providing entertainment, or bringing in a pet as a visitor. Nichole Bathke will be happy to help

you match your interests and abilities to available opportunities.



To contact the Hospital Replacement Project:

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