

June 3, 2009

Superintendent message: OSH Replacement Project Update

Department and hospital leadership have been engaged in discussions regarding some program design features of the replacement hospital.

For a project of this magnitude, it is not unusual to question a programming decision, reassess and adjust. Such an opportunity presented itself recently in regard to the width of some corridors and the location of some residential rooms in the design of the new hospital.

While there are examples in other psychiatric facilities where six-foot corridors are workable, we have learned there are some issues that cannot be captured in the numbers. We want to assure that our patients recover and our staff work in the safest environment possible. With that said, the Oregon State Hospital Replacement Project Policy Group made a decision today to move from six-foot to eight-foot corridors in the PSR unit (ABC and Neuro were designed with eight-foot corridor widths).

In addition to the change in corridor widths, the Policy Group made a decision, based on a standard of nursing practice, to move some single-occupancy rooms closer to nursing stations because patients who are placed in single rooms need more nursing supervision and intervention.

With that said, I want to recognize the work of the OSH Replacement Team. Last week's Secretary of State Audit praised the team for its handling of this \$458 million project. The team earned high marks for its management and direction. I have every confidence that the new hospital will be a safe and therapeutic environment that supports the recovery of our patients.