

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
401 S. Tustin Street Design Meeting
October 1, 2008

Program Minutes

Alexander and Hibbs Architect and Engineering:

The *Architectural Program Document* was distributed for review. It was agreed that Health Care Agency (HCA) representatives on the design committee would provide answers/comments at the next design meeting on October 15, 2008. The purpose of the Architectural Program Document is to explain the architect's understanding of what HCA wants completed on this project. Part of this document will go to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) office and part of it will go to the City of Orange for their planning file. After the initial architectural program is completed, the design committee will explore details such as colors and environment, lighting, and actual floor plans.

The Validation Study of 401 S. Tustin was also reviewed. This explained the decision of the County to develop a new facility rather than remodel the existing facility. It was also determined that the Wellness Center would be called the "Wellness/Peer Support Center" and the Vocational Training Center would be called the "Education and Training Center."

"Green Certification" was explored again. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification will not be secured for the facility due to costs (15% of budget or more annually to maintain certification) as well as costs of project materials and long-term maintenance of equipment.

The site plan and parking was assessed and there are now 118 parking spaces allotted for the facility.

MHSA:

Kate Pavich repeated the concerns of consumers for a "green" efficient design. Natural light, flooring materials, insulated walls, paint, and operable windows in residential areas (to avoid constant air conditioning) have all been discussed, as well as compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Kate asked that the layout of the Crisis Residential program be designed to ensure that residents be visible to the staff at all times. Allen Hibbs suggested that agreement on the basic layout is needed first and then floor plans will be developed. This will include such details such as 'sight lines' for visibility. The following items were also discussed: the walls of Crisis Residential Building will be insulated to provide sound proofing; the second floor interview room for Psychologists was moved closer to the stairs; and the second story will feature an open area where a skylight will allow natural light in. For security purposes, there will be closed circuit television in the hallways. The laundry

rooms on the first floor will have commercial equipment for bed linens, etc., and the second floor laundry will feature residential equipment so residents can wash their clothing. Restrooms will be gender specific and feature a toilet, sink, and shower.

In the Wellness/Peer Support Center, it was requested that a storage room be removed to extend living space. Location of the Arts and Crafts room was exchanged with the game room to increase natural light needed for the art gallery. Discussion of lighting, music, and intercom options were reviewed and the architect stated that these specifics can be discussed during the design and development phase. A request for edible landscaping was made by consumers, e.g. rosemary and other herbs and will be considered.

Casey Dorman, MHSA Training Coordinator, reported that Linda Kaye created an architectural rendering (mock-up) of the Education and Training Center building that is more “artistically appealing.” Allen Hibbs agreed to assess the rendering when he receives it.

Kate Pavich stated that minutes of the design meetings, the architect’s diagrams, and fact sheets will be posted on the MHSA website (under Capital Facilities) to allow the community to remain aware of the progress of this project. The address is: <http://ochealthinfo.com/mhsa/>

OC Public Works:

Steve Johsz requested a written copy of the Orange County Transit Authority’s (OCTA) decision to not add a bus stop in front of the facility. There are currently four bus stops within walking distance to the site. He will also request a meeting to determine whether the existing emergency generator can be used at the site.

HCA Facilities:

Steve Karakash stated we need to begin planning floor plans and furniture to accommodate data and phone lines and to look at the overall technology requirements for each of the three buildings.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 15, 2008.