

Press Release

June 9, 2006

State leaders announce new plan for state hospital

SALEM – Governor Ted Kulongoski, Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) and House Speaker Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village) today announced a proposed restructure of Oregon's mental health system that includes constructing several new state hospital facilities.

The proposal calls for siting one 620-bed facility in the North Willamette Valley region, one 360-bed facility south of Linn County on the west side of the Cascades, and at least two non-hospital-level 16-bed secure residential treatment settings east of the Cascades. The public will be offered opportunities to comment on the proposal during the next several weeks.

The proposal is based on information submitted by KMD Architects of San Francisco, the consultant commissioned by the Governor and Legislature to lead the review of the current public mental health system and develop a master plan for redesigning the system. The anticipated cost is between \$324 and \$334 million.

"I am encouraged to have bipartisan support for moving forward vigorously on behalf of the patients, families and staff who already have waited far too long," said Governor Kulongoski. "This proposal isn't just about constructing new buildings, it's about improving people's lives."

Governor Kulongoski, President Courtney and Speaker Minnis also outlined a process and timeline for gathering public input into the proposed redesign and determining a final plan:

- A joint House-Senate legislative committee will conduct a public hearing before July 15 to allow public review and comment on KMD Architects' master plan recommendations;
- A decision-making group composed of legislative and executive branch representatives will determine site-selection criteria before Sept. 1; and
- The state Department of Administrative Services will give the Governor and lawmakers a list of suitable sites for consideration by February 2007.

Final decisions about the facilities' location, design and financing will be made by the close of the 2007 legislative session, once public input has been received and evaluated, and the Department of Administrative Services has provided an inventory of potential sites.

"The architects identified life-threatening conditions in the J Building, yet there still are 100 patients living in the most dangerous section of that complex. We must act quickly to move toward a 21st century mental health system," said Courtney.

"Having watched the outcome of the Fairview closure, I want to make sure we learn from the mistakes of the past and review our whole mental health system," said Speaker Minnis. "This is a first step in that process and making sure we provide better mental health care. Considering the serious health and safety issues at the existing State Hospital, it's critical that we start this process now so the Legislature is ready to debate options next year."

KMD Architects have provided two reports to the Governor and Legislature as part of its evaluation and recommendation process. The Phase I Report identified the structural and systemic challenges facing the Oregon State Hospital's Salem campus and concluded that Oregon should proceed with both the replacement of the hospital facility and a redesign of the entire public mental health system.

Building on those findings, the Phase II Report recommended enhancing Oregon's delivery of mental health care to its citizens at the community level and clarified the role the Oregon State Hospital should play within an improved and enhanced community-based system.

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Press Release

June 29, 2006

Committee named to develop site selection criteria for replacement of Oregon State Hospital

SALEM, OR – Governor Ted Kulongoski, Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem/Gervais/Woodburn) and House Speaker Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village) today announced creation of the Oregon State Hospital Site Selection Criteria Committee. Committee members include representatives from the Department of Human Services, Department of Administrative Services and both houses of the Oregon Legislature.

"This action represents a critical step as we work together to implement plans to redesign Oregon's mental health system," said Governor Ted Kulongoski. "I am very pleased at the quality of the individuals who have agreed to participate on this Committee and in this process."

The committee's charge is to finalize the site selection criteria by Sept. 1 for the Department of Administrative Services Facilities Division. DAS will use that criteria to create a list of suitable sites for review by the Governor and Legislature. Final site selections are scheduled to take place before the end of the 2007 Legislative Session.

DHS Director Bruce Goldberg will serve as Committee Chair. DAS Director Lindsay Ball also will serve on the Committee, and the Governor or his designee will participate as a non-voting member.

Additional Committee members include:

- Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem/Gervais/Woodburn)
- Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson (D-Gresham)
- Senator David Nelson (R-Pendleton)
- Senator Jackie Winters (R-Salem)
- Rep. Jeff Barker (D-Aloha)
- Rep. Debbie Boone (D-Cannon Beach)
- Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Cottage Grove)
- Rep. Bob Jenson (R-Pendleton)

Senator Avel Gordly (D-Portland) and Representative Billy Dalto (R-Salem) have been named as alternate Committee members.

"We've got to build a new state hospital and we've got to build it fast," said Senate President Courtney. "With life-threatening conditions in the J Building and a federal investigation under way, it's time to get moving."

"This is the first step in an inclusive process to improve Oregon's mental health facilities and provide better care for those who need it," said Speaker Minnis. "It's important to me to have all parts of Oregon represented on this committee and I want to thank these individuals for their passionate interest in putting Oregon at the forefront of mental health treatment."

The Committee is set to hold its first meeting July 17 in the Capitol Building. The meeting, which begins at 8:30 a.m. and is expected to last until approximately 3 p.m., will begin with a review of the master plan developed by KMD Architects of San Francisco for redesigning the state's mental health system, followed by an opportunity for Committee discussion and public comment. The afternoon will include a review and discussion of the process for determining site selection criteria.

The state's proposal for replacing the Oregon State Hospital calls for siting one 620-bed facility in the North Willamette Valley region, one 360-bed facility south of Linn County on the west side of the Cascades, and at least two non-hospital-level 16-bed secure residential treatment settings east of the Cascades. The anticipated cost ranges from \$324 million to \$334 million.

"I am looking forward to working on this effort," said DHS Director Goldberg. "Construction of these new hospital facilities will be an essential part of implementing a community-based mental health care model for Oregon."

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