

NEWS RELEASE



Date: Nov. 18, 2010

Contacts: Rebeka Gipson-King, Oregon State Hospital, 503-756-0366
Patricia Feeny, Oregon State Hospital Replacement Project, 503-932-8366
Anna Richter Taylor, Governor Kulongoski's Office, 503-378-6269
Robin Maxey, Sen. Peter Courtney's Office, 503-986-1605

Mental health community celebrates opening first phase of new Oregon State Hospital

Patients at Oregon State Hospital, family members and stakeholders joined Governor Ted Kulongoski and Senate President Peter Courtney and other state leaders today for a dedication marking the opening of the first phase of the new Oregon State Hospital.

"We are proud and happy to welcome you today to help us celebrate this milestone in improving the mental health system in Oregon, and I know it is the first of many milestones to come," said Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director-designee of the Oregon Health Authority, which oversees the state hospital.

The dedication comes as the hospital has begun moving operations into the first section of the new hospital, which will house admission evaluations and other services for the entire hospital and provide treatment and housing for approximately 70 patients, some of whom are currently living in a building constructed in the late 1800s.

Patients will begin moving to the new residential units in January. Additionally, a new kitchen for the entire campus has been operating in the new building since September and patients have begun using the new vocational services workshop to learn job skills such as assembly, wood working and furniture making since October.

During the ceremony, Gov. Kulongoski spoke about how the hospital is just one component in the transformation of Oregon's mental health care system.

(more)

"Today is symbolic of our efforts to transform how we deliver quality care to Oregonians with mental illness," Kulongoski said. "Just as patients entering here begin their recovery, Oregon begins a recovery, too. This is a place of new beginnings and a place where patients come first. A place where care is patient-driven and a place where care is patient-focused. This marks a new era for mental health care for Oregon."

Sen. Courtney, who has been essential in the transformation of the state hospital, also spoke at the event. Under his leadership, the 2005-2007 Legislature approved the five-year project to build the new hospital.

When complete, the new hospital will be 870,000 square feet and house up to 620 patients from around the state. As completion progresses, new parts of the hospital will continue to open in phases. The next phase of construction is scheduled to open during the summer of 2011. The final section of the hospital is scheduled to open toward the end of next year, including units for patients transitioning out of the state hospital and patients who have neurological illnesses.

"All of us at OSH are pleased to join in celebrating this day," said OSH superintendent Greg Roberts. "And we know that we still have a long way to go. We will continue to work hard to improve the care and treatment for the people we serve."

The therapeutic environment of the new facility will enable the state hospital to continue the momentum of improvements already underway. The hospital has been implementing a new system of recovery-based care, which emphasizes and supports each patient's potential for recovery. This new system focuses on smaller patient-to-staff ratios, patient engagement, and active treatment. The new hospital facilitates this transition by providing smaller units, treatment malls where patients attend group sessions during the day, and rooms designed for patients to participate in the creation of their own treatment care plans.

"The hospital is just one part of the statewide continuum of care, and we must never lose sight of our goal for patients reentering the community to live their lives," Roberts said. "We all must work together to realize the promise and the hope that this wonderful new building represents."

###

(more)

Harbors -- General Information

Admissions and Stabilization Units

The goal of Harbors is to provide a safe and therapeutic environment that will allow patients to stabilize in preparation for their move to a less restrictive environment or return to court. With 114,300 square feet and a 124-bed capacity, Harbors comprises five units located on three floors.

- First floor - Anchor 1 is a 24-bed co-ed admissions unit and Lighthouse 1 is a 20-bed male admissions unit.
- Second floor - Anchor 2 and Lighthouse 2 are both 20-bed co-ed stabilization units.
- Third floor - Lighthouse 3 is a 20-bed male stabilization unit. Planned space is available for the eventual addition of a 20-bed corrections unit.

Throughout Harbors, signs with iconic, easily recognizable images will assist patients and staff in finding their way through the residential and treatment areas.

Admissions

The Harbors admission units, Anchor 1 and Lighthouse 1, will carry out admission procedures and provide for mental health evaluations and treatment services in a secure environment. Admissions are anticipated to average 53 patients per month with an average length of stay not to exceed 30 days. The goals to be accomplished during this time may include establishing the patient's fitness to proceed to trial, ability to transition to a less restrictive setting and/or preparation for conditional release.

Stabilization

The stabilization units, Anchor 2, Lighthouse 2 and Lighthouse 3, provide a secure setting for adult patients requiring intensive monitoring, treatment and behavioral management. Treatment in the stabilization units focuses on assisting the patient to understand and manage his/her mental illness, develop personal strengths, make positive choices and reduce dangerous behaviors.

Once completed, the corrections unit will receive referrals from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and provide patients with short-term care for symptoms of mental illness before returning them to DOC.

###