First Hillcrest Unit Moves a Success

By Joe O'Leary
OYA Deputy Director

On Friday, May 26, I spent the better part of a day visiting with youth and staff on the three Hillcrest units who transitioned to their new homes at MacLaren. Both staff and youth were positive and upbeat about the new setting in the front cottages that provides them with various spaces in which to do their daily activities, including the ability to be outside on the porch. Overall, the move went smoothly, which is a testament to the conscientious planning and professionalism of staff.

I also had a chance to tour the newly remodeled Timberline Building (formerly Thayer), which will be a space for education, treatment, Hope Partnership, and OIIR. From the upstairs of Timberline, I had a unique perspective on how the Courtyard units are coming together. This area of campus is undergoing a truly remarkable transformation.

I also took time to check out the amazing gym that statewide recreation coordinator Rod Martin and his team are building in the former Geer Auditorium, largely with donated equipment. Rod's vision is that this area will have youth working in every role that you might find at your community gym. (Read more on page 3.)

Finally, I toured the newly remodeled clinic and intake space. Two new dental chairs, plus waiting and treatment areas that have the look and feel of a community setting, will give our medical staff and our youth a much-improved experience. (See page 3 for images of the space.)

This is an incredible time in our agency's history, and I give kudos again to all of the staff who are working to make the consolidation as smooth and successful as possible.

Tentative Summer Timeline

Summer will be busy as the rest of Hillcrest prepares to move to MacLaren by Sept. 1. We are still making plans for additional events for staff and volunteers, including open houses for the new units, and we will share dates when we have them. Note: Dates are subject to change.

June
30: Graduation at MacLaren

July
Mid-July: Construction complete on Courtyard unit buildings; construction on outdoor spaces continues

August
First two weeks: Courtyard unit staff begin to stock their units with supplies
Late August: Construction complete on Courtyard outdoor spaces

Week of Aug. 20: SITP relocates to Pacific, and University of Life relocates to Rockaway
Week of Aug. 27: Alpha (Hillcrest) moves to Maple, Delta (Hillcrest) moves to Noble, Epsilon (Hillcrest) moves to Summit, and Zeta (Hillcrest) moves to Oak
Week of Aug. 27: Hillcrest clinic and the rest of Robert Farrell High School move to MacLaren

*Note: For a map of the MacLaren unit locations, see page 5 or go to OYANet.
Staffing Update

- **New managers**: We recently welcomed two new managers at MacLaren. Jamie McKay, formerly a member of OYA's Community Resources Unit, is the new Performance Improvement Analyst. Anthony Wong, previously a GLC 2 at MacLaren, is the new Intervention Unit (IU) Manager.

- **Case Coordinators and Skills Development Coordinators**: We have developed interim summer schedules for these positions. Campus leaders are working with these groups on their schedules for after the consolidation.

- **GLC hiring**: We are continuing to make sure both campuses are fully staffed. We will not hold group interviews in July. The regular GLC staffing process will begin again in August.

Timberline Treatment Mall

We recently finished many of the renovations to the former Thayer Building to begin turning it into the Timberline Treatment Mall. The building currently is being used for office space while we prepare it for youth to use.

We anticipate that Timberline will be ready for education-related and other youth programming later this summer.

Testing Water for Lead: Progress on Fixing Taps

As of June 9, 61 taps with elevated lead levels at MacLaren have been replaced by OYA plumbers and retested by the agency's consultant. This represents nearly two-thirds of the taps that tested high for lead at MacLaren a few months ago.

Of those 61 taps, 55 have been cleared for use. The other six came back with elevated clearance test samples and could not be brought back into use for drinking or cooking. The physical plant operations (PPO) team attached permanent signs to these taps that say the water is non-potable. They will re-examine these taps at a later date.

Also as of June 9, MacLaren no longer needs to use alternative water sources or bottled water in 17 buildings, because taps in those buildings passed the clearance tests for lead and copper. To see lists of which buildings passed clearance tests, which areas are still being tested, and which taps are marked as non-potable, check out the MacLaren Remediation Progress Update on the "Testing Water for Lead" website: bit.ly/oyaleadtest.

As a reminder, the PPO team will not remove any warning signs from outlets until their clearance test results come back below the action levels. If you see a warning sign, do not use that outlet for drinking or cooking.

Youth Property: Canteen

On June 1, we began a new process at MacLaren for youth purchasing items from the canteen.

- We are moving away from the canteen card system.
- Youth are able to make purchases every other week, instead of weekly.
- We have a rotating unit schedule for submitting orders.
- Each unit submits order forms for their youth by Wednesday of their assigned ordering week. The items are available for pickup one week later.
**Medical Clinic**

MacLaren clinic staff moved back into their original clinic space in mid-May, after the space received a refresh to make it look and feel more like a regular doctor's office. The clinic now includes a waiting room, softer finishes, and some new furniture. Staff and youth are already enjoying the more normative, healing environment.

*Above: New lobby and check-in desk.*

*Right: Dental exam room.*

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**Recreation Spaces at MacLaren**

MacLaren's former Geer auditorium is undergoing an amazing transformation into a full-service gym, thanks to Statewide Recreation Coordinator Rod Martin and his team.

Dubbed the Plaza Fitness Center, the space is filled with exercise and weight machines, many donated by Salem Hospital and Exercise Equipment Northwest. Willamette Education Service District bought several machines to help provide a personal training certification program. Ultimately, youth will be able to gain work experience as trainers on campus after they complete the certification.

The center opened in late May, and eventually it will include a cardio deck with treadmills, a yoga and stretching area, and a TRX suspension training system.

Other fitness areas at MacLaren:

- **Valley Athletic and Community Center:** This eventually will be the new name for the buildings currently known as Pennoyer Gym and the Visiting Center. Thanks to a generous donation from Salem Evangelical Church, a new hardwood floor and bleachers will be installed in the gym, which is geared toward the Valley units.

- **Plaza Gym:** Youth from the new Courtyard units will have a separate gym and workout area located in the gym area currently used by SITP.
Hillcrest Staff Celebration

Hillcrest held a celebration event for staff on May 19 before the first units moved over to MacLaren. A barbecue, games, and an all-staff photo in front of the water tower were part of the event, which celebrated the community that staff had formed over the years and the great work they had done together.
Consolidation Project Planning Info
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OYANet site: bit.ly/2rjljD2
Public site: bit.ly/oya10yearplan