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Going for the Gold

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Going for the Gold

By Rebecca Hathaway, RN, and Eric Shamp, AIA, LEED AP

Everyone in town is coming together to help make Providence Health & Services' new south expansion at the Providence Holy Cross Medical Center Campus one of the most environmentally friendly healthcare facilities in Southern California — and it is working. Slated for completion in 2010, Providence Holy Cross Medical Center is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for its efforts toward creating an energy-efficient sustainable design. Pre-planning meetings, monthly workshops and user group meetings take place at Providence Holy Cross that include community members, and hospital and health system staff and representatives.

LEED-compliant design and construction includes measures to improve energy efficiency, reduce potable water consumption, encourage alternative transportation, improve indoor air quality, and improve visual and thermal comfort.

“Throughout the design process, the architect, local utility companies and regulatory agencies have consistently worked together to optimize energy efficiency for the overall campus,” says Waldo Romero, regional director of facility and construction, Providence Health &



Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Mission Hills, Calif.

Services California Region. The facility is designed to utilize an energy-efficient central plant and primary building equipment that is compliant with the Air Quality Management District (AQMD); high-efficiency “super” T8

fluorescent lighting; low-emitting materials to improve indoor air quality, construction and demolition waste recycling; and a construction-phase indoor air quality plan. The south addition expansion has also qualified for design incentives from Southern California Gas Company's Savings by Design program for employing energy-efficient mechanical, lighting and building envelope strategies.

Patient, Staff and Community

Located in Mission Hills within the city of Los Angeles, “the four-story expansion on the south side of the hospital will house an expanded Women's Services department, including labor-delivery rooms, a neonatal intensive care unit and general acute care services. The facility will feature surgery, recovery, endoscopy rooms, an intensive care unit, a spiritual care chapel, lobby areas and dining facilities. The 131,500-square-foot building also includes a 22,300-square-foot shelled space to accommodate 35 licensed beds in future expansion.



Chapel

The design team worked toward improving staff efficiency and patient healing. Attributes include same-handed patient rooms to increase patient safety, a centralized lobby, family waiting areas, a cafeteria and public corridors that incorporate art and wayfinding along with timeless, quality interior finishes.

By hosting numerous workshops and streamlining the client's vision, designers incorporated the ideas of facility managers, department heads, doctors, nurses, support staff and community members into a patient, family and staff-friendly environment.

Providence Holy Cross has 1,600 employees and 500 medical staff on-board. It is the second-busiest private trauma facility in Los Angeles County. "This expansion will alleviate pressure caused by the closure of several other Los Angeles County hospitals in recent years," says Kerry Carmody, administrator for Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. "The south expansion will serve a growing community. It was also designed with a fourth-floor shelled space to accommodate additional beds when future expansion is required."

Nearby hospital closures in the last five years include the 155-bed Granada Hills Community Hospital and 209-bed Sherman Way Campus of Northridge Hospital Medical Center. Between 1997 and 2002, Los Angeles County lost 10 percent of its hospitals and an additional nine acute care facilities.

Ensuring Compatible Facilities

The south expansion is being added to an existing facility. The entire project team went through a process of looking at the existing facility to ensure compatibility and support with the new structure. After reviewing exist-

ing and potential requirements, members of the "utility" user group suggested a mechanical/electrical upgrade that would render the two buildings self-sufficient in the event of a power outage. The facilities will support each other even as construction gets underway.

To increase flow between the existing and new buildings, users suggested a design that featured rooms with greater working and storage space. The design team also incorporated more electrical and data outlets for equipment, increasing flexibility among the facilities and allowing a seamless transition of patient care among departments. Again, user-group interaction was vital to providing a cohesive design that would allow for future expansion while upgrading existing facilities to meet today's needs.

Conclusion

The design team includes dedicated interior architecture professionals, an in-house sustainable design coordinator and technical specification writers. The group has also consulted in-house cost estimators, as well as quality assurance program managers to ensure complete design quality as the project progresses. **FC**

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