

As I was recently coming into the new Unity building, still climbing over construction, to meet and greet the new Unity employees who are transitioning from Adventist and OHSU, my heart was filled with hope and gratitude. A dream that started three years ago with the seeds of a vision is about to become a reality. Being part of a team that is building a psychiatric hospital that is trauma-informed and a path to hope, recovery and community is an honor and a big responsibility.

While we are working hard to make this dream a reality, none of this would be possible without the generosity and relentless support of our community. From the transformational gift from Marsha Randall to the work of our community partners and everything in between, this is only possible by standing on the shoulders of community giants. There is more work ahead, but we are getting there.

— Dr. Chris Farentinos

Vice President for Unity Center

OPENING OUR DOORS

A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, **January 5, 2017**.

A public open house and tours will be offered the same day from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Patients will be transferred to the Unity Center on January 9.

Care When Needed Most

One of the main goals of the Unity Center and its Psychiatric Emergency Service (PES) is to provide treatment when a person is facing a mental health crisis. Due to the stress placed on most conventional hospital Emergency Rooms, these patients – with no obvious physical injury – often see long wait time for care. Reducing the wait and giving a person immediate attention has proven to reduce the risk of hospitalization and shows better outcomes. At the Unity Center, patients will have unprecedented 24 hour, seven days a week access to compassionate care by highly qualified psychiatrists, behavioral therapists, nurses, peer specialists and staff.

In the December bulletin, Unity staff will present specific information on how to refer patients to the Unity Center.

Hope & Hospitality

Using an innovative “living room” concept, patients will be exposed to a welcoming and healing environment as soon as they enter the door. When a short-term stay is necessary, there are 80 adult and 22 adolescent inpatients beds available. The Unity Center also has four “calming rooms” and four “hold rooms”, a pharmacy, a retreat room for spiritual activities and a café for visitors and staff.



The Unity Center's architecture and various color schemes are designed to reduce agitation and instill a sense of well-being.

Staffing Update

Unity department managers are working to get through the interview process for remaining staff positions. Unity leaders continue to recruit for qualified physicians, especially credential psychiatrists to fill gaps in weekend/evening PES coverage. Aimee Baker, RN, was named the PES RN Manager for the Unity Center.



A panel presentation about Unity Center was held at the Breakfast for Champions event in September.

Transitions of Care Coming Together

The Unity Center staff will soon be working with dozens of community partners to offer transitional support services. With staff either located inside the center or reaching in, these organizations will help to coordinate continued support for patients after they are discharged. These support “navigators” aid patients with ongoing outpatient care and life resources that include job and housing assistance, addiction treatment, legal aid, family counseling and any long-term inpatient care.

Unity Center leadership is currently designing specifics plans for which organizations and individuals will be on site. These individuals will be brought on board in December.

Construction Update

Progress has been steady on the remodel of the former Holladay Park facility that will now house the Unity Center. Hoffman Construction is nearing

completion on work on all six floors. Unity Center senior leaders continue to work on permits and state requirements for the Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES). The Unity Center will open with a temporary entrance to the PES, with final completion slated for spring 2017.

The healing garden plans are being revised. Thanks to a generous donation, the garden will be completed in the summer of 2017. Even during this construction patients will have access to the outdoors.

Raising Public Awareness

Members of the Communications Team continue to meet with neighborhood associations and business groups to help ensure the public is familiar with the Unity Center. The team is now working on a welcome video for patients and their families to be ready in mid-December.

In September, Unity’s leadership team hosted a social event at the Moda Center attended by more than 80 community leaders and health professionals. Also in September and October, presentations were made to such groups as the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and Partners for Diversity Breakfast for Champion event. Additional events are planned for December.



Following a tour of the new Unity Center, Dr. Chris Farentinos was interviewed by Fox News 12 reporter Simon Gutierrez in September.

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