

Stakeholder Meeting for New Secure Facility re: Furnishings & Flex Space
March 8, 2022 ~ 2:00 – 3:30

Attendees: Jennifer Rowell, Lee Dorf, Karen Barber, Troy Parah, Tabrena Karish, Wilda White, Brett Yates, Alexandra Nerenberg, Missy McGibney, Zachary Hozid, Samantha Sweet, Jack McCullough, Linda Cramer, Michael Sabourin

Welcome & Introductions

DMH has broken ground for the new SRR in Essex, VT. Very excited and busy gathering feedback from a variety of stakeholders for furnishings & flex space. We have met with MTCR & VPCH residents and staff.

Resident Rooms

- Love there is a separate place near the window that is not the bed [as folks tend to lay on the bed to look out the window]

Living Room

Multipurpose Room

Dining & Kitchen Area

- Will this be the same area where residents can cook as well? Yes, and behind the first kitchen is where the cooks would be to prep the meals.
- Wilda – I think it would be better without the words on the beams. I feel strongly about this.

Serenity Room

- Defer to the current residents for a feel. Seems a little large for a serenity room. Tabrena – we do have a sensory room that is smaller than this one.

Art/Activity Room

- Linda -Very dull room for the soul/spirit, not very inspired. Is it due to money? Troy – possibility of having folks be able to paint the walls how they would like.
- Wilda – I agree with the comment that the environment looks bleak.
- What else could we add to liven it up? Linda – it is very bare, what about furnishings? Tabrena – this is an architectural rendering drawing so please keep that in mind, no art on the walls, etc. from this picture. Lacking the personal element, the residents would bring.
- Wilda – use a different color on the wall to differentiate it from the floor.

- Michael - the room off hand looks pretty small. It would be helpful to have a table with a chest board, bean bags, etc. Also, room looks small.
- We did shrink some of these rooms due to budget but kept the large multipurpose room and the gym for large group settings.

Questions

- Zack - Can you send folks the slides and people can give comments?
- Michael - no couches anywhere? There are loveseats.

Access to technology

- two spots will have computers as well as anybody has their own iPad, Phone - they will have access to those as well.

Greenhouse Area

- Will there be an outside garden? Yes, there is a door from the greenhouse to outside with raised beds in the courtyard.

Sensory Room

- Possibly get a massage chair for here as well, private space to access
- Wilda - I'm concerned about the size of the furniture. They seem small. With metabolic issues resulting from psych drugs, the furniture needs to be large enough to accommodate large people.

Living Room area

- Both wings would share this space. Michael - seems like a lot of furniture.
- Michael - Is the single door the only egress? Most folks living in these situations have more than one door egress. Tabrena - Yes, that is the only entrance to that room on the plans.

The facility is designed with 2 wings, 8 bedrooms on both wings with common activity and living spaces. There is some flex space on the unit.

How can we best utilize the flex space?

- Linda - In part, you are not going to know until you get in there to know what the needs are.
- Troy - Current residents suggested it be a smaller, extra living room, not having a TV in there but to sit and socialize with others.
- At VPCH we have folks who like to play the guitar, so maybe being able to utilize the smaller room to shut the door and play some type of instrument if they wanted.

Comments/Questions

- Linda – There will be private rooms where an advocate/lawyer could talk with the resident. Karen – Yes, there will be.
- Linda – there needs to be plenty of room for residents to learn skills they need to transition out into the community.
- Troy – there is a thought to leave one of the rooms as a place for residents to meet with attorneys, family, etc.
- Karen – There has been some concern with the size of the furniture. Tabrena – we did take into account for bariatric sizes and in the bedrooms.
- Michael – Bathrooms in rooms or common space? Tabrena – each bedroom has its own bathroom with showers.
- Jack – One thing I didn't hear anyone say, but I think it is worth mentioning, is that I encourage you to avoid using that heavy weighted furniture that seems to be the norm in a lot of hospitals. I know they use that furniture for safety. Linda – I agree Jack.
- Michael – What additional equipment will go into the facility i.e., foosball table, exercise equipment. Troy – yes, we would have some i.e., treadmill, stair stepper, in terms of other activities, planned on purchasing a ping pong table. There is not really a space for a pool table, but other smaller games we can purchase or things that can be folded up.
- Michael – what about egress going in and out of the building? Will it be less of an eye sore in terms of coming and going. Tabrena – I don't have any renderings of the outside, but all buildings must be fully accessible to all.
- What would the outside recreation yard look like? Tabrena – the yard is in the backside of the Y, along with the gym. We don't have any basketball courts in the yard. We have a covered porch area outside of the dining area, raised beds, grass area to be used for whatever, walking paths, a gazebo.
- Michael – are mosquitos problematic there? Tabrena – we did not have any mosquito issues when Woodside was there.
- Michael – any outside activities outside of the campus. Troy – the plan would be to get the residents outside in the community as much as we can.

Still on track for first quarter 2023. On the Legislative Corrections & Institution's website there is some current photos of what it is looking like from testimony.