

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
CARO CENTER
FY2015 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN**

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Caro Center is to provide an appropriate range of active inpatient psychiatric treatment services to best meet the needs of adults with severe mental illness in collaboration with community mental health agencies and authorities. Divisions of specialized care are identified to meet ongoing treatment needs that reflect multiple medical and psychiatric diagnoses. Consistent with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), Joint Commission Standards and other applicable regulations, the environmental needs require ongoing assessment and remodeling to ensure safety and clinical functionality. The prevalence of clinical behaviors and medical disorders that demonstrate self-injurious acts, increased violence and medical needs have created the need for more intensive treatment and physical plant modifications to ensure safety and security measures are maintained in order to provide therapeutic activities for the patients and staff.

II. PROGRAMMING CHANGES

Therapeutic programmatic changes continue to involve the modification and the expansion of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program (PSR) that provides treatment for adults with mental illness. The programs have an interdisciplinary approach that provides treatment focused on improving the biopsychosocial aspects for the individual patient as well as safety enhancements. The programs provide opportunities to participate in normalized roles and positive therapeutic relationships in an effort to prepare patients for community reintegration. Patient education, individual and group therapies involving recreational, occupational, music and activity therapies are planned in accordance with the person-centered plan of service.

Programmatic revisions in the therapeutic delivery system for patients with neuropsychiatric disorders are anticipated in the next five years in accordance with clinical symptomatology and staffing resources. Because this population has demonstrated increased multiple neurological, physical and mental impairments, the environment requires specialized physical modifications in order to maximize independence and ensure safety, particularly for the elderly who are often physically frail and fragile. Currently, Building 27 North provides residential accommodations for 32 patients who require this type of specialized service.

III. FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Caro Center consists of 38 buildings with a total square footage of 523,537. The oldest building was constructed in the early 1900's, while the newest non-residential building was constructed in the 1950's. Some residential buildings were remodeled in the 1970's to meet then existing regulatory standards for the

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
CARO CENTER
FY2015 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN**

population served. There has been no major remodeling since 1979. Several buildings on the premises of Caro Center are over fifty years old and require maintenance on an ongoing basis. Cosmetic improvements are needed more frequently to maintain an aesthetic environment compatible for treatment and operational support. Some buildings need exterior improvements to facilitate an appropriate and safe presentation for patients, staff and visitors. The general physical condition is considered adequate. However, ongoing replacements are needed to the exterior of all buildings including windows, doors, improved parking lots, and standard cosmetic enhancements to building interiors. Some buildings need roofing upgrades, central air conditioning, and improved interior space utilization for visitor and office areas.

A. Building utilization rates compared to industry standards

Caro Center is one of three public hospitals that provides adult inpatient psychiatric services to residents of the state. The current average census for mentally ill patients is 150.

B. Mandated Facility Standard for Program Implementation

The buildings in use are currently in compliance with Joint Commission and CMS standards. However, recommendations have been made to upgrade facilities and create a more home-like and safer environment for patients and staff consistent with accrediting/certifying regulatory agencies.

C. Functionality of Existing Structures and Space Allocation to Program Areas Served

Buildings currently used meet the minimal necessary requirements for existing and projected space for program areas. Safety and security needs for patient therapeutic activities and specialized clinical needs require building renovations to address active treatment requirements. Minor renovations and cosmetic enhancements are made by hospital maintenance staff only if resources are available.

The physical plant in its current status continues to require modifications to improve orientation and therapeutic measures for the patients, particularly those with neurological impairments. Flooring in multiple buildings require replacement and a specialized weave in carpeted areas. Sleeping areas require sufficient storage and floor space to accommodate prosthetic devices such as wheelchairs, walkers and crutches for safe and independent mobility. Bathing, showering and toileting accommodations with prosthetic grab bars and devices are needed in each sleeping area for convenience and privacy, as well as facilitating and

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
CARO CENTER
FY2015 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN**

maintaining adult daily living skills and independence. Additional visiting room space is needed to accommodate social gatherings for patients and visitors.

Shared living areas, such as dining rooms and social areas, require a home-like atmosphere that reflects appropriate size. Dining areas must be large enough to accommodate large prosthetic devices and appliances but small enough to foster a social climate that avoids over-stimulation preventing confusion and agitation.

D. Utility System Condition

In 1989, an energy audit report recommended decentralization of the Center's heating system by installing individual boilers in each occupied building. The recommendation was made because the center's heating plant, distribution, and condensate system are deteriorating. This project has been completed for several buildings on the southern part of the campus. The water system consists of two deep wells and distribution systems that currently meet Department of Environmental Quality standards. Several improvements are being recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality including water main improvements. The center is connected to the Caro municipality waste water system.

The existing underground primary wire system is over the 25-year life expectancy with several failures noted in recent years. All utilized buildings should have the electrical capabilities increased to meet current demands for power, particularly due to increased technology. The central air conditioning systems at Cottage 13 and Cottage 14 need to be replaced. The remaining patient occupied buildings have partial air conditioning provided by several window units which need to be replaced by a more efficient central air conditioning system.

E. Infrastructure Condition

In 2004, Campus Drive and several service driveways were repaved. Most of the center's roadways were capped with an asphalt surface several years ago. All parking lots require continual repair or expansion for the safety of patients, visitors and employees. Intermittent patching of these areas is inadequate and creates safety hazards and potential hazards to vehicles.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
CARO CENTER
FY2015 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN**

F. Adequacy of Existing Utilities and Infrastructure Systems

The existing infrastructure and utilities will meet current and future projected needs once current projects are implemented.

G. Land Capacity

The Caro Center consists of 650 acres. Currently, all land on the main campus is utilized by the center.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Investment in capital outlay projects for Caro Center continues to be an important priority in order to maintain consistency with industry standards and national patient safety goals. As part of its fiscal year 2015 capital outlay plan, the following projects are proposed for the center:

1. Primary and Secondary Electrical Distribution Replacement
2. Replacement of Deteriorated Flooring in Patient Facilities
3. Road and Parking Lot Surface Replacement
4. Exterior Building Improvements
5. Upgrade Bathroom/Shower Facilities for Patients (Building 27)
6. Vacant Building Demolition

These projects are necessary to continue providing a safe and accommodating environment for patients and to maintain facility integrity. It is the goal of Caro Center to not delay investment in these projects until they become critical and result in higher costs and disruptions in patient care and treatment.