State of New Hampshire
Forensic Hospital Informational Meeting

01/31/2022
6pm
Agenda

• Highlights from the first Information Session
• Forensic Hospital Design/Construction Timeline
• Forensic Hospital Patient Population
• Forensic Programs in New Hampshire: Current State
• Forensic Patient Care Best Practices
• Forensic Programs in New Hampshire: Future State
Forensic Hospital Design/Construction Timeline

**Design Phase**
- Design Firm Selection
- G&C Approval
- Program Verification & Schematic Design
- Design Development
- Construction Documents/Specifications
- Design Assist / Construction Administration

**Construction Phase 1**
- 10/7/2021 Public Outreach Meeting
- 1/31/2022 Public Outreach Meeting
- March Public Outreach Meeting
- May/June Public Outreach Meeting
- G&C Approval
- Bidding for Construction

**Construction**
- Public Outreach Meeting
- Public Outreach Meeting
- Public Outreach Meeting
- Move-In
Forensic Hospital Patient Population

• Patients involved in the criminal justice system and suffering from serious mental illness.
• Patients accused of an unlawful act but can not go to trial because of their illness.
• Patients have been found not guilty of the unlawful act because the act was the result of their illness.
• Patients who have not committed an unlawful act but, because of their mental illness, are too dangerous to be treated at a conventional psychiatric hospital.
Forensic Treatment in New Hampshire: Current State

Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU)
- Mentally ill offenders from Men’s/Women’s Prison general population
- Mentally ill persons from County Jails/House of Corrections
- Civilly committed patients who are too dangerous for NHH
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial (ICST)

NHH
- Civilly committed patients
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial
- Mentally ill persons from County Jails/House of Corrections
Forensic Patient Care Best Practices

• Daily/weekly assessments with doctor and nurses
• Psychiatric medications
• Individual and/or group therapy sessions
• Groups focus on mental illness, substance abuse, stress and anxiety management, and coping, social and interpersonal skills
Forensic Treatment in New Hampshire: Future State

NHH
- Civilly committed patients
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial (ICST)
- Mentally ill persons from County Jails/House of Correction

Forensic Hospital
- Civilly committed individuals who need a higher level of supervision
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial (ICST)
Forensic Patient Care In NH: Future State

• Therapies specific to the needs of forensic patients
• Treatment will be overseen and provided by trained mental health professionals in hospital setting rather than in a prison environment
• Much like at NHH, security will be provided by safety professionals specifically trained in mental health-centered approaches
Forensic patients are considered by their doctors for discharge when:

- they are no longer a danger to themselves or others
- they are able to care for themselves
- a severe mental illness is treated

Several steps ensure these conditions are met, including:

- independent risk assessments
- internal administrative review process
- court oversight and approval
- conditional discharge agreement
Questions

If you have additional questions, please email nhhadminsupport@dhhs.nh.gov

Link for this evening’s presentation:

https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/nhh/forensic-hospital-sessions.htm