



State of New Hampshire
Forensic Hospital Informational
Meeting

10/7/21

6pm



Agenda

- Why construct a forensic hospital?
- Design & Construction Process Review
- RFP Approach & Timeline
- Next Steps

How to Submit Questions

- *Please submit questions through the Question and Answer feature in Zoom. If you hover over your Zoom toolbar you should see a Q&A option.*
- *The chat function should only be used for technical issues or problems.*
- *We will be recording today's call. If you object to the recording please disconnect now.*



Why?



System Needs- Background

- In New Hampshire, there is no facility appropriate for treating acute mental illness for forensic patients including those whom are civilly committed for treatment. Currently these patients are cared for at the secure psychiatric unit (SPU) within the NH Men's State Prison.
- Some forensic patients are treated at New Hampshire Hospital, which is designed to provide short-term acute psychiatric care. Forensic patients typically require longer lengths of stay. Because of this, access to treatment at NHH becomes restricted and this can impact patients who are referred from emergency departments and can increase the waitlist for NHH.
- The State's 10 Year Mental Health Plan recommends improvements to mental health treatment for those involved in the criminal justice system and ensuring that those with mental illness are provided with compassionate treatment in the least restrictive environment possible.
- Construction of a secure forensic hospital adjacent to NHH will allow for skilled psychiatric treatment with some shared services and will provide a safe, therapeutic environment for forensic patients.



Design & Construction Process Review



Design Review

- The Department intends to design a facility for 24 beds. This design will allow additional units to be added if required.
- Current design conversations are focusing on building adjacent to New Hampshire Hospital. This will allow efficiency, economies of scale and access to specialty services currently provided at NHH.
- Design Focus: Therapeutic but safe environment
- Architectural Consultant chosen based on design expertise in forensic and psychiatric care.

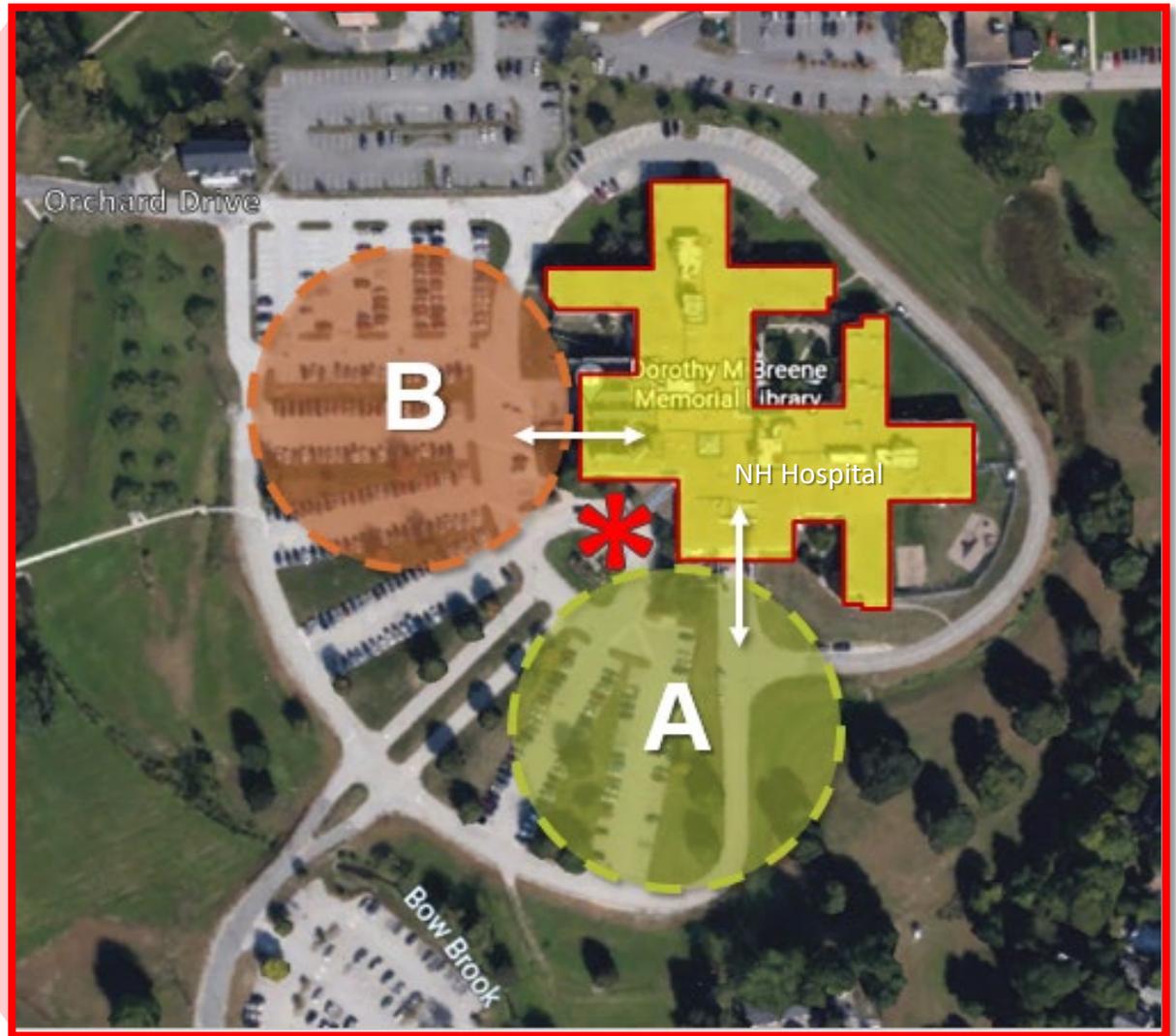
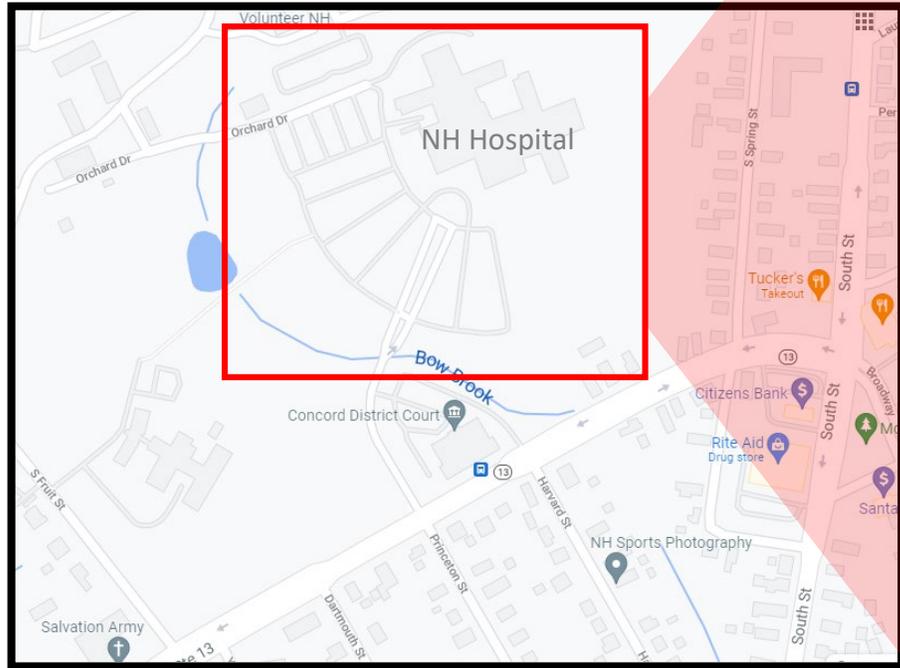
Design-Bid-Build Approach

- In coordination with the NH Division of Public Works, DHHS has selected a design firm to produce full design of a 24 bed facility. The design contract is expected to be submitted to the Governor and Executive Council in October 2021.
- This design firm has experience with psychiatric and forensic facilities and expertise regarding safety, design and construction of behavioral health facilities.
- Design is slated to take approximately 10-12 months. Once the design phase is complete, DHHS will issue a request for construction bids.
- Once a construction bid is awarded and receives the notice to proceed, the awarded firm will begin working with DHHS and the design firm to begin construction phase.
- Construction of the facility is slated to be ready for occupancy by the end of 2023.

Next Steps

- Intensive site investigations will take place to gather information about the site in order to locate all structures, parking lots and utilities such as water, sewer, storm drainage and electrical services.
- The project scope will be reviewed with the Division of Historical Resources to ascertain if there are any historical features on site that may need to be protected and preserved during the construction process of the new facility.
- Meetings will be taking place between the architects, NH Hospital staff and the Division of Public Works to develop a program of space requirements for the new building. A program is a list of every space that is needed in a facility of this type with the size of each space.
- From this program, the architects will work with the experts on their staff and the subject experts at NH Hospital to develop options for the location of the new building on the campus and floor plan configurations that meet the intent laid out in the programming document.
- The State team and the architects will present 3-D graphic representations of the options developed during the initial planning process for public information and comment.

Site Selection: Adjacent to NH Hospital



Please contact us with feedback

- Email: nhadminsupport@dhhs.nh.gov



Thank you for your attention. We hope you will continue to give feedback as this project moves forward!

