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Dear West Center families and friends,

Welcome to another Hard Hat Update. We have had many project partners along the way to our final reconstruction plan, but none more important than our residents and family members. Starting with the first focus groups way back in 2007, our customers have shaped the final design for each “house”. All of our selected furnishings, fabrics and equipment selections have been carefully evaluated for resident comfort, staff ease of use, safety and aesthetic appeal.

Engaging residents in evaluating colors, fabrics and furnishings has been a lot of fun for them, and invaluable for our architects and designers. For example, one resident, a psychiatrist, pointed out how patterned lines in the curtain fabrics could drastically impact people with mental disorders. We knew this in theory, but to have him explain each pattern and its impact as we showed them was of real value to the team, and a fascinating experience.

Those of you who have visited the Center in the past couple of weeks may have noticed a set of reclining chairs in the front lobby. The chairs are manufacturer samples, delivered so we could evaluate elements of each chair, to develop a customized version that will best serve our resident guests in each of the reconstructed suites. Selecting a recliner is one of the last important selections we will make. Next time you are in, take a moment to sit in the chairs, and let us know what you think! Comment cards are next to the suggestion box, across from the chapel. And, as always, drop any other hard hat related questions or comments there, too.

Best Wishes,

Susan Farris, Executive Director



HARD HAT

Update