



Jan. 24, 2013

CONTACT:

Erin Platt, (309) 779-2981, erin.platt@unitypoint.org

Trinity Rock Island announces intent to build \$61.3 million Heart Center and Emergency department expansion

Officials at Trinity Regional Health System today announced their intention to build a proposed 90,000 square-foot, three-story expansion of its Heart Center and Emergency department (ED) at the Trinity Rock Island campus, pending regulatory approval from the State of Illinois. The \$61.3 million construction project – which will be located at the front of the hospital – is the largest in the facility’s history. The expansion is designed to improve patient safety and privacy, better coordinate care, reduce operational costs and accommodate increased demand.

“Over the past 40 years, Trinity has consistently kept current with changes in medical advances and technology; however, very few capital improvements to the Rock Island hospital building have been made. We have waited as long as we can to upgrade and modernize our hospital,” said Trinity President and CEO Rick Seidler. “The rapidly increasing number of patients in the emergency department, cardiac treatment unit, and psychiatric crisis service areas mean that the need for expansion is critical.”

In 2011 Trinity diagnosed and cared for 35,676 patients in the Trinity Rock Island ED, a 7 percent increase over the previous year. Another 8 percent increase is projected by 2014. In addition about 10 percent of ED patients receive cardiac-related diagnoses. The new space will allow for easier transfer for diagnostic imaging and subsequent treatment in the main hospital’s testing area.

State behavioral health facility closures also add to the capacity issue. When former state hospital patients are sick, out of medication or simply lost and confused with no place to go, they often come to the ED. There are an increasing number of patients who are combative, disruptive or even suicidal upon arrival. The new facility will include a crisis stabilization unit for patients with six psych patient safe rooms, interview rooms, and a “living room” area that would provide a higher quality of care to behavioral health patients while assisting in the staff’s ability to quickly consult and treat a diverse set of patients entering the ED. The “living room” is designed to be a calming, separate space with wood millwork, comfortable seating, artwork, a dining room table, and a fish tank. The calming setting is intended to help de-escalate behavioral health patients in crisis.

In addition to the new setting, process changes are underway to implement a new model of care called Trauma-Informed Care. The care model – which is being studied by the architect at a national level – also calls for the use of peer mentors who are certified by the National Alliance on Mental Illness and nurses and social workers specially trained on behavioral health caregiving.

“I am very proud of the work we do in the emergency department. We have the best-trained staff. They are passionate about their work and love the challenge of comforting and healing patients who need emergency care,” said Dr. Kevin Kurth, Trinity’s Director of Emergency Medicine. “However, the logistics in our current emergency department do not support the high level of care we deliver. We all must work harder to compensate for this. With a new, expanded emergency department, we could do so much more.”

Plans also call for expanding the space and services offered at the Rock Island hospital to accommodate increased volumes and better coordinate heart care under one roof, including testing, procedures, cardiac rehabilitation, and education. Not only will this make care more convenient for patients, it will also help physicians more easily collaborate.

“Trinity’s heart program continues to achieve national accolades for the quality of its care despite the challenges the heart care team faces due to ever-increasing volumes,” said Dr. Sanjeev Puri, cardiologist with Cardiovascular Medicine P.C. – Illinois, who is on medical staff at Trinity. “We have first-rate care here, but we need facilities to help support its continuance.”

The project will be funded through a combination of internal reserves and borrowing through Trinity’s parent company, Iowa Health System.

“We see there is a great need for this project in the Quad Cities. We understand the huge benefits that will result from it,” said Bill Leaver, President and CEO, Iowa Health System. “Iowa Health System’s financial support of this project is a vote of confidence in Trinity and the Quad-Cities.”

During the news conference, officials also announced that the Trinity Health Foundation will conduct a capital campaign to support the expansion as well.

Trinity’s Certificate of Need application is scheduled to go before the Illinois Facilities and Planning Review Board on March 26, 2013. If approved, Trinity plans to break ground in June 2013 with construction completed by summer 2015.

Navigant Healthcare, one of the country’s top-ranked healthcare management consulting firms, has assisted Trinity in retaining the design services of Cannon Design, a nationally recognized healthcare design firm, who is working in partnership with Gere Dismer Architects of Rock Island and Paragon Commercial Interiors of Davenport. Additionally, the engineering for the project is being provided by Rock Island firms KJWW Engineering and Missman Engineering. Pepper Construction, a national builder, along with Russell Construction, a local Quad-Cities construction firm, have formed a joint venture and were chosen as the general contractor for constructing the expansion in partnership with local trade contractors.

“The Board of Directors is committed to keeping local dollars local by involving engineering, architectural, interior design and construction firms from the Quad-Cities. This project will create local jobs,” said Trinity Regional Health System board chair Pete McLaughlin. “Not only is this project about meeting the healthcare needs of our community and region. When completed, the expansion will represent one of the largest financial investments in the community that the Quad-Cities has experienced in recent years.”