



March 26, 2013

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**Trinity Heart Center/ED project approved**

On Tuesday, March 26, the Illinois Facilities and Planning Review Board unanimously approved Trinity's certificate of need application for the building of a 90,000 square-foot, three-story expansion of its Heart Center and emergency department (ED) at Trinity Rock Island. With the green light Trinity plans to break ground on the project in June 2013, with construction expected to be complete by summer 2015.

Located at the front of the hospital the \$61.3 million construction expansion 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.

"The rapidly increasing number of patients in the emergency department, cardiac treatment unit and psychiatric crisis service areas has stretched these units beyond capacity," said Trinity President and CEO Rick Seidler. "The need is critical. With this vote, the State of Illinois is allowing us to better serve people in the Quad-City region."

As ED volumes continue to grow, workflow is a challenge. Many treatment bays have been converted into double rooms with only a thin curtain separating the two beds. During peak times the department has even had to set up hospital beds or chairs in hallways as triage stations to accommodate patient volume.

Behavioral health facility closures also add to the capacity issue. When behavioral health patients are sick, out of medication or simply 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 ED will include a six-bed Crisis Stabilization Unit for those patients in distress.

In addition about 10 percent of ED patients receive cardiac-related diagnoses. Trinity Rock Island's three cath labs already operate at 80-90 percent capacity on any given day, so there is little room in the schedule to accommodate emergency cases like heart attacks. Space constraints also prevent the unit from having testing and diagnostic equipment.

Patients must be moved down a long corridor for diagnostic imaging and subsequent treatment in the main hospital's testing area. By increasing the amount of time needed before treatment can start, there is a greater potential for further heart muscle damage.

The new plans also call for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up cardiac rehabilitation to be coordinated under one roof. Not only will this make care more convenient for patients, it will also help physicians more easily collaborate.

The project will be funded through a combination of internal reserves and borrowing through Trinity's parent company, Iowa Health System. The Trinity Health Foundation is also conducting a capital campaign to support the expansion as well.

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.

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