

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Date: May 15, 2008

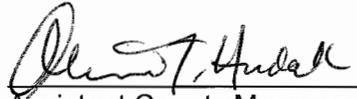
HPSC
Agenda Item No.7(A)

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Jackson Health System Report on Maintenance of the Rehabilitation Building and Future Plans for Improvement

Attached please find a report in response to the presentation made by Officer Manny Gomez at the April 17, 2008 Health and Public Safety Committee regarding the maintenance of the Rehabilitation Building and future plans for the hospital's infrastructure needs.


Assistant County Manager

Attachments

April 25, 2008

To: George Burgess
County Manager

From: Marvin O'Quinn 
President, Jackson Health System

Re: Officer Manny Gomez's Concerns

Background

In response to Officer Manny Gomez's presentation before the Health and Public Safety Committee on April 17th, 2008, below please find a list of corrective actions that have been implemented in response to his concerns. These items also respond to the concerns he expressed in his letter dated March 10, 2008.

- Nida Winnett, director of Patient Care Services and Administration for Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital, spoke to the supervisor referenced in the letter about the payment that had been made for supplies with a personal credit card. The supervisor explained to Ms. Winnett that this was an isolated event that was completely acceptable, and that making the purchase was of little significance since the individual involved with the transaction would be fully reimbursed.
- We are fully aware that the heavy volume of patients in our waiting areas on clinic days has become an issue. To this end, we are implementing a beeper system to notify our patients that they are ready to be seen. Upon registering, a patient would receive a beeper, thus allowing them the freedom to walk around until the designated time of their appointment. We estimate that this new system will be installed and functioning by June 2008.
- New schedules have been implemented on clinic days as well. Due to the high volume of scheduled visits on those days, we have increased our number of cashier stations from two to three, starting at 8 a.m. This additional cashier will help speed up the registration process for our patients.

- The beeping sound that Officer Gomez mentions is no longer an issue. It is important to note, however, that the sound is a safety mechanism in place that works in conjunction with our fire alarms.
- There are times when patients waiting for their appointment will see a corrections patient being escorted by corrections officers. However unpleasant this may be, it is important to understand that these individuals are patients here as well. Jackson Health System is committed to treating the healthcare needs of everyone, irregardless of their background or situation. There is little that can be done to remedy this because of the location of Ward D within Jackson Memorial.
- The letter incorrectly notes that there is a spinal cord clinic in the basement of Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital. There are a few doctors who see their patients in the basement on occasion, and in the coming months these doctors will be able to utilize office space in the Institute Annex Building. Therefore, the use of the basement for this purpose will cease.
- The installation of the plasma TV in the first floor lobby was triggered by ADA requirements. ADA requires that all hospitals have televisions with closed captioning capabilities in all patient waiting areas. The television that was there previously was non-compliant, so the switch was made to the new plasma TV.
- The types of donations received by the Jackson Memorial Foundation and how those donations are allocated is an area where the Jackson Health System simply cannot get involved.
- The sink in Room 240 has been fixed and it is now functioning with running water.
- Security is always of the utmost importance to us. We have a roving security guard monitoring Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital throughout the day at specified intervals. The doors close at 6 p.m. and from that point on, only employees with badges can enter the building. Additionally, there are security cameras at all exits.

Proactive Corrective Actions Taken

In addition to the aforementioned, Jackson has also taken a proactive approach to the maintenance of the Rehabilitation Building and improvements have been made in the following areas:

- The renovation of two restrooms located on the first floor to conform to ADA standards.
- The renovation of the patient lounge on the first floor, with the installation of a new ceiling, A/C vents and a 50" plasma TV. The patient lounge on the second floor was also upgraded.
- Painting of the first, second and third floor corridors along with the physical therapy areas. We are also currently painting the pediatric rooms. In addition, Ward D was painted and we are in the process of installing wall protection.
- Replacement of the ceiling in the first floor corridor and the installation of additional fire sprinklers.
- Replacement of all automatic doors.
- Renovation of the brace shop room brake room.
- Addition of hurricane shutters for the building.
- Replacement of the ceiling tiles in the basement.
- Painting of various rooms and offices throughout the building.

Future Plans for Improvement

Although we would like nothing more than to have a state-of-the-art facility, the reality is that the Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital is aging. We are currently undergoing a strategic evaluation of the entire campus's infrastructure needs, and we are monitoring the budget cuts pending at the state and federal levels. Once, this process is complete we are committed to improving the state of our facilities to the best of our abilities. However, funding availability and constraints will ultimately dictate the extent of renovations that we will be able to implement.