

Valley Hope facility provides interactive treatment strategies

From its soaring clerestory in the middle of the day room, to the commercial-grade kitchen, to the residential rooms, Valley Hope Moundridge is designed to provide a quality treatment experience for patients utilizing both its residential and outpatient programs. The facility has been designed to be a prototype for future treatment centers, according to Ken Gregoire, president of Valley Hope Association, which provides treatment for alcohol and other addictions.

The facility campus, which occupies an entire city block, is the result of a design-build partnership between owners Valley Hope Association, based in Norton, Kan.; builder, Fuqua Construction of Inman; and architect, Kelly McMurphy with Landmark Architects of Hutchinson.

When Valley Hope learned that the building they used in Halstead would no longer be available for lease, the board took the opportunity to design a facility that would fully support the continuum of treatment strategies it offered.

“Until (we built the facility in Moundridge) we had used existing buildings and modified them to our use. As we considered designing and building a new facility, there were some specific design considerations that we wanted to incorporate that were different from what we had had in the past,” Gregoire said. “Treatment strategies have changed over time, and we wanted a facility that took the best of the old-style design and improve on that to facilitate how we now treat our patients.”

Gregoire pointed out that, while the board knew what they wanted in a treatment facility, they weren’t sure how to achieve it. Even though Gregoire and his board had not been familiar with the design-build model before they began the project, as they began talking with prospective builders for the project, they soon saw the benefits it could offer.

Fuqua Construction was selected as the builder because, Gregoire said, it was evident that when the company took on the job, it would be completed and it would be done right. The board also appreciated that owner Max Fuqua understood what they were trying to accomplish with the facility and was committed to helping them meet their goals.



PROJECT PROFILE

Valley Hope Moundridge

Owner: Valley Hope Association

Location: Moundridge, Kansas

Completed: June 2010

Project Scope: New building

Project Type: Drug & alcohol treatment center

Square footage: 26,910

Design Build Team: Fuqua Construction; Kelly McMurphy, Landmark Architects

“We felt (Max’s) commitment to the project was particularly strong ... and that he connected to our mission and knew what we wanted out of the building,” Gregoire said. “We came to establish a trust level with Max that sold us. We could trust each other.”

McMurphy was brought on the project by Fuqua, who has worked with him on several design-build projects in the past. He visited several existing Valley Hope facilities – there are nine



The spacious lecture room is designed so it can be opened into adjoining spaces to accommodate large groups.

in seven states – and visited with board and staff members to gain an understanding of what they wanted from the building design. The project was a team effort from the beginning, Gregoire said, with owner, architect and builder working together to solve design demands in a cost-efficient manner without sacrificing quality or function. The ability to problem solve, design

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and build as an integrated team is one of the advantages of the design-build model.

“This was a good opportunity to sit down with the owner and program the layout of the building to meet a number of needs for the facility,” McMurphy said. “We wanted this to be a facility that the owners and we could be proud of.”

One of the project’s challenges was the time frame under which the design-build team was working. The Valley Hope Association had to be out of its Halstead facility by an already determined date, and they had to have the new facility ready for move in at that time. McMurphy said that normally a design of this scope – nearly 27,000 square feet with multiple use demands for the space – would take a year but, the design and process phase of the project was accomplished in just over five months. Ground was broken in June 2009 and the facility opened in June 2010 on schedule.

“We had a very motivated owner. They were excellent to work with as they got us everything we needed to do the design,” McMurphy said. “Fuqua Construction was able to answer any structural or materials questions we had, all of which saved time in this phase.”

The facility has both residential and outpatient treatment options and serves people of all ages from teens to retirees and all walks of life. A key component of the treatment process, according to Gregoire, is interaction between the patients as well as opportunities for individual and group treatment sessions. The building has a commercial kitchen and laundry, dining area, a large multipurpose room used as a day room, a lecture room which opens into the day room, nursing station, business offices and a chapel. The campus also includes outdoor recreational facilities including basketball and volleyball courts, horseshoe pits and a playground. Natural lighting plays into the design in the common areas, making them inviting spaces for patients to relax and interact in during free times during the day.

Gregoire said their wish list for the building was met – and it was done in an economical way without sacrificing quality or beauty.

“The whole design of the interior is wonderful,” he said. “It has an open, airiness with all kinds of light and meets our use de-

mands. It is designed to feel like a residence, not an institution, and is very conducive to people interacting with each other. The flow through the building is very good.”

He describes his experience with the design-build model and Fuqua Construction’s design-build team as “spectacular.”

“Max was very good at taking all the needs and our goal to have a calm nurturing place for our patients and do it within a budget we could afford,” Gregoire said. “He has enough experience that he didn’t need to take three weeks to pencil some-



The chapel with its open ceiling provides a quiet place for meditation.

thing out (when there were questions), he knew what it was going to take. We could see throughout the construction process that the building was being built with modern construction techniques in a solid way. Max paid attention to all sorts of things and ensured that the process went smoothly. They exceeded what we thought could be done (on our budget) and we were grateful for that.”

Gregoire said that the entire Fuqua Construction team, from Max, to job site foremen down, was very conscientious about meeting or beating deadlines, keeping them informed of progress and answering questions. “We never had trouble reaching Max, Bob or Paul.”

The design-build model was very cost-effective for the project and, Gregoire said, Max Fuqua became an advocate for them in working with subcontractors and suppliers to keep the project on budget.

“Max got a fair payment for the job, but he really helped us evaluate options and costs so that we met our financial goals as well,” Gregoire said. “As a not-for-profit, the best thing about the project was that the design-build team and the approach they took to the project made me look really good to my board.”

Perhaps, most importantly for Gregoire, was that it was evident that Fuqua Construction employees really took pride in the project and the quality of their work, that they wanted it done right. The result was a facility that everyone is very proud of, he said.

McMurphy agreed. “Max never cuts corners to increase profits. He wants the building to be something everyone can be proud of. If corners are cut, it’s because the owner wants it done. Customer service is a high priority for Fuqua Construction.”

written by Cindy Baldwin, Baldwin Creative Services



Conference rooms provide comfortable space for group meetings.