

RRH's innovative hospital facility to open this fall



Construction is expected to give way to a ribbon-cutting at Rochester Regional Health's new critical-care facility this fall.

By NICOLE SHELDON

The Sands-Constellation Center for Critical Care is Rochester Regional Health's largest project to date. The seven-story, 312,000-square-foot facility is a \$250 million construction project that will add 132 rooms and 23 operating rooms to the hospital complex. The critical care facility expects to attract 200 to 300 new employees, sparking a major economic impact on the Rochester community.

The CPL designed project broke ground in the fall of 2017, led by LeChase Construction Services LLC, whose team has been working seven days a week. According to Kevin Casey M.D., president of Rochester General Hospital, construction is on-track for the anticipated ribbon cutting at the end of September. Everything will be in full swing when the building opens, including operating rooms.

Casey said that the reason RRH chose to center the facility on critical care is because of increased health issues faced by the public.

"Patients are getting sicker," he said. "We really need a hospital that is able to accommodate sick patients both locally and regionally, as well as have the flexibility during an illness like the coronavirus to go from our intensive care unit capacity now and essentially double or triple that capacity as needs arise."

Kristin Opett, chief nursing officer at RGH, says that the Center for Critical Care will revolutionize nurses' ability to care for patients. The rooms—all private—are much larger than RGH's current structure, now referred to as the legacy building, and each room is able to address varying levels of illness among patients.

"Every single detail, from supplies right near the bedside, to allowing our families to have space in the rooms to spend the night with their loved one in privacy, is centered on the patient, their family and the team," Opett said. "It will add about 100 nursing jobs, so that's something we're working hard to accomplish."

Casey and Opett already have the hiring process in place for nurses and other health care professionals, and Opett said she has no concerns surrounding the nursing labor shortage.

The RRH team is tackling nurse recruitment differently when it comes to the Center for Critical Care, and they're looking for qualified professionals locally, regionally and nationally.

According to Opett, RRH is determined to in-

corporate more LPNs (licensed practical nurses) into acute care, a trend that has taken off around the nation. The goal is delivering high quality patient care as efficiently as possible.



Casey



Opett

"I'm working with our local schools and chairs of those departments," Opett said. "We've set up student tours (of the new facility). It's really about creating a sense of energy and excitement both within our local and national markets for nursing."

The critical care center was designed to be forward-thinking and geared toward the needs of the future. The facility will house a surgical care center, a unit for women's health and neonatal care as well as 36 rooms per floor for the medical, surgical and oncology departments.

Casey said the critical care center isn't being built for 2020—it aims to address health care issues of the next 20 or 30 years.

"The room sizes and the technology that's being incorporated enables us to anticipate those future needs," Casey said.

Casey said he is confident the critical care center will be attractive to graduating health care specialists who are looking to practice in advanced environments that support innovative technology.

The RRH team also sought out local vendors for technology and signage, including the nurse locator system.

"There's a tremendous amount that we source locally (thereby) supporting local jobs" in addition to employment associated with the facility's construction, Casey said.

Overall, the building project has been a solid collaboration between health care professionals and the LeChase construction team, and the economic impact is estimated to be quite significant.

"It's going to be a state-of-the-art facility," said Bob Duffy, president and CEO of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce. "Rochester has, I believe, the best health care per capita

compared to any place across New York State and probably across the country thanks to the systems and great medical expertise we have here. This is going to add to the reputation of the community when it is done."

Nsheldon@bridgetowermedia.com / (585) 363-7031



Rendering by CPL architects, engineers and planners



Rendering by CPL architects, engineers and planners



Rendering by CPL architects, engineers and planners