

CheckUp Extra

July 29, 1994

Lehigh Valley Hospital Redesign Program Advances

Lehigh Valley Hospital announced this week the latest steps in a continuing plan to redesign and improve healthcare services at its regional facility. At its July meeting, the hospital Board of Trustees authorized funding an analysis of building and renovation plans, which would extend from 1995 into late 1997.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am pleased to share with you news of the latest developments at Lehigh Valley Hospital in our continued efforts to provide quality healthcare.

At its July meeting, the Lehigh Valley Hospital Board of Trustees authorized management to proceed with the ambulatory care services redesign and inpatient bed consolidation. We firmly believe these projects are necessary to add value to the patient care experience.

We have chosen to communicate with you in this manner because your support and involvement are critical to our continued success. The accompanying information details these exciting initiatives.

We look forward to sharing details about this program with you in the coming months. You will be contacted in the near future regarding a presentation.

Sincerely,

*Elliot J. Sussman, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer*

According to Elliot J. Sussman, MD, president and CEO of Lehigh Valley Hospital, this major initiative is part of the hospital's overall clinical mission. "Our plan is to ensure that we will be able to meet future healthcare needs of our patients by improving quality and providing optimal patient care in a cost-effective manner. This plan will also allow us to enhance our educational and research activities with Penn State's College of Medicine at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center by providing our own staff, medical students and residents a state-of-the-art healthcare delivery system in which to practice."

Site plans for the hospital's two facilities have focused on inpatient bed consolidation and ambulatory service redesign in response to national trends toward delivery of healthcare in outpatient settings. The estimated cost of the redesign project is \$58 million, but the hospital could save more than \$20 million annually in operating expenses when all acute beds have been moved to the Cedar Crest site, according to national planning and financial consultants Ernst and Young.

The present phase of the project anticipates renovation of 58,000 square feet of existing patient registration, emergency department, outpatient testing and treatment areas at the Cedar Crest site. A new 149,000 square foot multi-story addition would house inpatient units for women's and mental health services, along with ambulatory diagnostic and treatment services.

Hospital Redesign

The hospital redesign process began in January 1992 with the approval of a clinical plan and was followed by the approval of an overall strategic plan in July 1993. One

element of the clinical plan included the consolidation of all outpatient cancer services into one facility, the John and Dorothy Morgan Cancer Center, which opened in November 1993.

To accommodate emerging healthcare trends, in January 1994, the hospital began consolidating inpatient acute care services at the Cedar Crest & I-78 site and transforming the 17th & Chew site into a center primarily for ambulatory care.

Cedar Crest & I-78

In early spring, inpatient dialysis moved to Cedar Crest & I-78. This site continues to serve as the location for the Level I trauma unit, the burn center, transplant services, neurosciences center and Pennsylvania's second largest cardiac program.

17th & Chew

During this three-year construction project, all ambulatory surgery at Lehigh Valley Hospital will be relocated to 17th & Chew. Additionally, hospital officials announced plans to open a 52-bed, subacute skilled nursing unit, which would provide a lower-cost, inpatient treatment alternative for elderly and disabled patients. Plans for this unit are consistent with the hospital's patient-focused approach to improving the delivery of services. For example, since patients in this

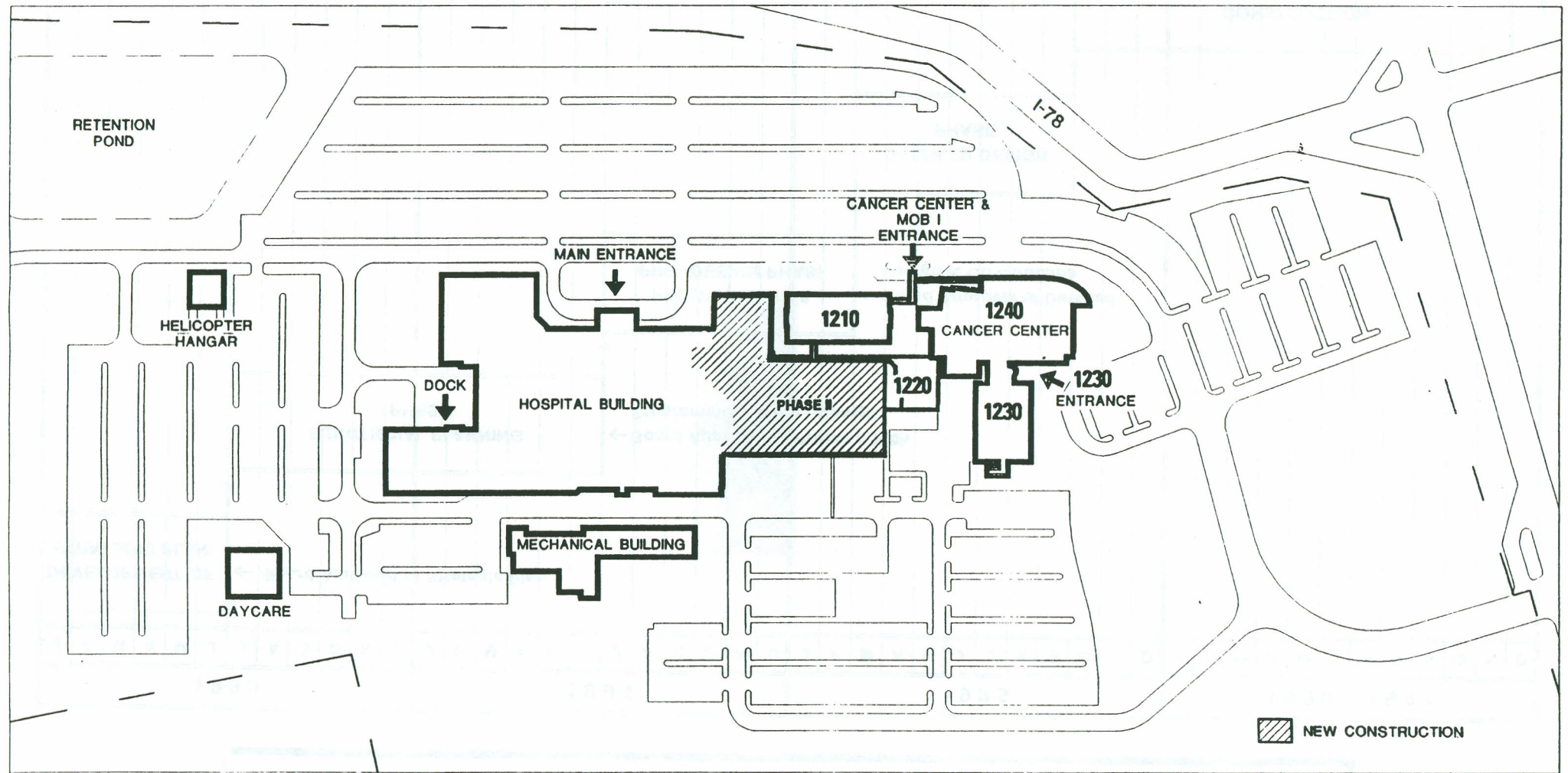
unit have a greater need for rehabilitative services, physical, occupational and speech therapy services have been relocated and will adjoin the proposed unit.

In the short-term, 17th & Chew will continue to house inpatient mental health services, the neonatal intensive care unit and upgraded facilities for the region's largest obstetrics and gynecology services. Emergency services and the hospital's outpatient clinics will be maintained at this site as well.

Expanding the use of 17th & Chew for primary care services will allow for the continuation and expansion of services like perinatal outreach and outpatient pediatrics care. These services combined with the existing multiple-medical office complex will continue to develop 17th & Chew as a viable medical core.

Within the next six months, hospital planning, construction and clinical care staff will review and further refine the details of the project with medical staff, former patients, employees and consultants. During this phase, the hospital will study the entire plan relative to clinical programming, establish construction schedules and receive construction estimates. In early 1995, the board will receive a complete outline of the project for approval. ■

LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL CONSOLIDATION PROJECT



LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

