

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**May 09, 2011  
8:30 AM**

**Hearing Room D**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rep. Vic Gilliam, Co-Chair  
Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Co-Chair  
Rep. Lew Frederick, Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Jim Thompson, Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Mitch Greenlick  
Rep. Chris Harker

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Rep. Julie Parrish  
Rep. Jim Weidner

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer Kellar, Committee Administrator  
Matt Davis, Committee Assistant

**MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:** Field Trip – Oregon State Hospital

---

The Committee Members and Staff toured the new Oregon State Hospital in Salem.

### **Topics Discussed:**

An emphasis on patient care and building adaptability during the design phase

- Open spaces including 6.2 acres of outdoor courtyards, both passive and active.
- Balancing the need for patient privacy with patient safety.
- Wall art doubles as navigational tools for patients with limited language skills.
- Versatile group rooms which can be easily converted to fit changing needs.
- Emphasis on “line of sight” construction. Staff members can easily monitor large/multiple areas from their work stations.
- Seclusion and restraint is seen as the last option. “Sensory Rooms” complete with soothing lighting and calming music are seen as tools to control situations before traditional isolation and restraint becomes necessary.
- On site hearing rooms for civil commitment, re-commitment and medication override hearings. Private areas for patient to confer with counsel.

### **Construction challenges and successes**

- Preserving historical nature of the site while keeping costs down and meeting modern needs.

- Re-use of building materials, including brick and timber from the old facility to reduce costs and environmental impact.
- Difficult economy has helped to lower costs because contractors are willing to accept a lower profit margin.
- Balancing the use of new technologies with proven technologies to ensure effectiveness and simplicity of use.