

Project Case Study: Behavioral Healthcare – David Lawrence Center Expansion



Madera Series Tables



Hondo® Series Seating

Project Name *David Lawrence Center Expansion*

Project Location *Naples, Florida*

Project Size *32 Beds, Adult and Child Crisis Stabilization Unit*

Building Type *Private In-patient psychiatric care facility*

Project Team *Norix Group, Inc.,*

PK Studios, David Lawrence Director of Facilities and CFO

- Product List**
- Hondo® Series Seating
 - Attenda® Series Patient Room Furniture
 - ComfortShield® Mattresse
 - Sled Base Armless Chairs-COM Fabric
 - Madera Series Tables
 - Safehouse® Series Wood Patient Room Furniture

CASE STUDY

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DESCRIPTION:

The David Lawrence Center is a non-profit, behavioral healthcare agency providing both behavioral healthcare and substance abuse services in Southwest Florida. Founded in 1968, their mission is to restore and rebuild lives by providing skilled, affordable mental health and substance abuse services that are available to all. The center is also a designated Baker Act receiving facility (The Florida Mental Health Act), which includes patients committed involuntarily.

The David Lawrence Center provides treatment for minor children with behavioral, emotional, and substance abuse issues, as well as counseling and rehabilitative services to adults in crisis. Each year, thousands of lives are touched by their spectrum of over 40 prevention, intervention, and treatment services.

The vision for the new facility was to create a home-like atmosphere with an emphasis on aesthetic design and durability. To accomplish this, PK Studios design team was brought in to direct the selection and procurement of furnishings, fixtures and equipment (FFE.).

PK Studios is an award winning Architecture and Design firm based in Naples, FL. They specialize in Healthcare, as well as Hospitality and Office market segments. They have won numerous ASID awards including Healthcare-Hospice, Healthcare-Clinics and Hospitality Design as well as having over 22 AIA-Southwest chapter awards.

OVERALL PROJECT GOAL/PHILOSOPHY:

This expansion project would include both the adult crisis stabilization unit as well as the children's crisis stabilization unit. The goal of the project was to create a home-like feel in the adult unit while creating a fun, welcoming atmosphere in the children's unit. This included bedrooms, as well as living and dining areas..

Furnishings Goal:

The new facility would serve minor children, adolescents and adults. While the acuity level varies, the facility treats patients that are categorized in the most severe level by the Goldberg and Huxley model. This was a critical factor in the facility, as they sought to create a home-like atmosphere, but also needed to address vital safety and durability concerns. David Lawrence CEO David Schimmel reiterated that goal. "We needed our facility to be secure, but didn't want it to feel like a prison." PK Studios designer Judith DaRocha gives the design perspective, "We were trying to step away from that institutional, hospital look and make it more residential setting."

Secure/Safe Goal: Furniture that can be securely anchored to the floor or wall, with no ligature points and no gaps in construction allowing concealment of contraband.

Functional Goal: Furniture that is extremely durable. The surfaces of the furniture should be easy to clean and maintain. Furnishings should have rounded edges for safety and security.

Aesthetic Goal: Create an environment where form meets function. Utilize both colors and textures to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere to promote healing and rehabilitation. Focus on use of bright, fun colors in the children's area, while utilizing residential-looking wood furniture in the adult area.

Cost-Effective Goal: Purchase of furniture that will last 10+ years and have minimal replacement needs as a means to control costs.

Maintenance Goal: Furniture that can be easily cleaned and sanitized while not affecting the color and finishes.

PROCESS:

Overview of Furniture Selection Process:

In 2010, David Lawrence Center CFO Scott Geltemeyer was introduced to Norix at a behavioral healthcare conference in Orlando, FL. Impressed by the features and function of Norix furniture, he gave the information to Facilities Director Gary Boivin. Gary reached out to Norix consultative sales specialists, Lee Winer and John Aiello, and through multiple meetings they reviewed colors, materials, and furniture samples for different areas of the facility.



Madera Series Tables, & Sled Base Armless Chairs-COM Fabric

As the project neared completion, the David Lawrence Center enlisted PK Studios' design team of Denise Couture Cowell and Judith DaRocha to select appropriate furniture for the new facility. The team was impressed by the functionality of the furniture, as well as Norix's color palette (The Naturals Collection). In a white paper titled "The Contributions of Color," Tara Hill of Little Fish Think Tank describes how color can be used to create a more natural, healing environment. Denise Couture Cowell also touched on the functionality of the product "The function of the items worked very well, because we also consider the facilities operations staff. The ability to sanitize the furnishings was necessary and important." The designers found the ability to choose different materials and laminates as well as using COM (customer owned material) fabrics to be crucial in their choice.



Attenda® Series Patient Room Furniture

In addition, Norix Group's local sales team also arranged a site visit to a similar behavioral healthcare center for Facility Director Gary Boivin, to evaluate the Norix products in an intensive-use field setting.

For the adult sleeping rooms, the design and facility teams selected the Safehouse™ Wood Series which delivered durability, safety, and a residential look. They paired the platform series beds with matching headboards, as well as nightstands and both single and double open wardrobes. In addition both teams liked the concealed anchoring feature of Safehouse.

In the dining areas, they chose Madera tables, which feature high pressure laminate tops and a molded edge-which is ideal for dining applications. These tables were paired with sled based chairs complete with COM upholstery, delivering a durable, aesthetically pleasing dining environment.

For the youth sleeping areas, the teams selected the Attenda® Series, featuring molded polymer one-piece construction. They chose headboards for the Attenda beds to give it a more residential feel, while also including Attenda nightstands and Safehouse™ wardrobes for storage needs. Hondo Series seating was selected for the youth common areas. "We wanted the area to have bright, bold color choices which created an atmosphere of fun," Judith said.

Furniture Installation:

For this project, the installation required a high level of coordination with the construction team and with the facility. Norix Group provided installation services, coordinating with both the design team and facilities team to ensure a smooth installation. This involved working around the ongoing construction as well as installing rooms as they were made available.

Gary Boivin, David Lawrence Center Facilities Director, states, "The Norix team was extremely professional. Everything from the furniture selection process through installation to the final inspection went smoothly. Norix installation crew was conscientious and thorough."

POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION:

The Norix Group worked closely with the design and facility teams to meet all of the project



Safehouse® Series Wood Patient Room Furniture

objectives. The new David Lawrence Center opened in November of 2012, providing compassionate behavioral healthcare services in an environment that combines a therapeutic aesthetic with functional safety and security. Boivin added, “All guests, clients, donors and our community partners have expressed positive feedback on the look and feel of the new unit, of which the furniture is such an integral component. The furniture is wearing well and the chosen color palette helped create a warm therapeutic environment.

Additional information:

David Lawrence Press Release

http://www.davidlawrencecenter.org/press_releases/303.pdf

News Press Article

<http://www.news-press.com/article/20121102/HEALTH/311020041/David-Lawrence-Center-Naples-providing-comfort-those-need>

PK Studios

<http://www.pkstudios.com>

The Contributions of Color

http://www.norix.com/contributions_colors.asp

Baker Act

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/mentalhealth/laws/>

ABOUT NORIX GROUP:

For more than 25 years Norix has served the behavioral healthcare industry, providing secure furnishings and fixtures for every application. The product line has expanded to include other industries and environments such as corrections, transitional housing, transportation, educational institutions, fire/police stations, commercial facilities, and military installations. All furniture is designed for safety, security, and extreme durability. Norix intensive-use furniture is extraordinary by design, surpassing industry standards for strength, safety and long-term performance. The privately held company is headquartered in West Chicago, IL with consultative sales representatives and dealers throughout the U.S. In 2012, Norix launched Safe Environments, a news and information blog serving architects, designers, administrators, and facility managers involved in the design, construction, and operation of challenging environments. For more information, call 800-234-4900 or visit www.norix.com

