

CONSTRUCTING A BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



A CRITICALLY-NEEDED NEW PRIMARY CARE FACILITY

- 7-year project, from land purchase to opening
- 60,000 SQ. FT on 6.2 acres of land
- \$15.5 million project, including equipment, furniture and technology
- Comprehensive services IM, Peds, OB/GYN, Urgent Care, Pharmacy, Laboratory, WIC, Dental (anticipated), Health Education (anticipated)
- Completed 4 MOS. ahead of schedule, \$750,000 under budget
- Created 32 new positions to ensure sufficient staff for the new facility; some revenue-producing; many not.

DON'T START UNLESS:

- You are clear about the market you wish the new facility to serve.
- You know what programs, services and offerings you want to add in a new facility.
- You are on top of service delivery, quality of care, financial stability, staffing and other challenges.
- A new building will not solve your problems; it will exacerbate them.



WHY WE DID WHAT WE DID

- Our lease was up. We were serving 13,000 patients in a setting designed to serve 8,000.
- A new community college was literally being constructed around us. They blew up our parking lot!
- To have any possibility to expand services, and improve quality of care, we had to find a new facility. New construction was our only choice.
- Our patients were frustrated with the non-medical aspects of their experience. Wait times, crowded space, long waits for appointments, limited services.
- No matter what we tried to do, our existing space cried "clinic".
- New programs were not possible. There simply was no room to implement them.

DID WE SEIZE AN OPPORTUNITY, OR MAKE ONE?

- Although we acted out of imperative, we seized an opportunity.
- We planned a building designed for significantly more capacity than we were presently serving.
- We planned for future growth of programs and services.
- We invested in technology.



WHAT WORKED WELL

- Obtaining input from providers and staff.
- Designed a building focused on efficiency.
- Coordinated procurement of EHR with building project.
- Controlled costs of construction.
- Involvement and buy-in of board members in the project.

WHAT DIDN'T

- Predicting the evolution of technology over a five year period of planning, design and construction.
- Integrating the design and construction phases of the project.
- Anticipating changes in our space needs during both design and construction



WHAT WERE THE RISKS AND HOW DID YOU MANAGE THEM?

- For years we thought of this project as "If you build it, they will come." One day we woke up and said: "Suppose they don't come." We started to aggressively market the new building more than a year before it opened.
- Would leadership support the project. Intense cultivation of government, business, and community leaders
- Would the space we built be the space we need.



WHAT DID WE WANT FROM OUR NEW BUILDING?

- Decrease Wait times
- Increase number of new patients
- Change our image from "Clinic" to practice of choice
- Staff and patient "ownership"
- Next level of service delivery
- Platform for Patient Centered Medical Home
- Efficiency of Patient Flow
- Functional and Accessible work areas for medical support and patient services personnel

WHAT ELSE DID WE GET FROM THE NEW BUILDING?

- Validation. Practice of choice, versus the "clinic".
- Increased loyalty from patients, and morale from staff.
- Facilitated recruitment of high quality medical staff.
- Validation in the community. Requests to engage in cooperative endeavors have increased dramatically.
- Final linchpin in maturation of health center.

