INTRODUCTION

- STUDENT - NOT EXPERT
- SAFETY
  - PATIENTS
    - From themselves / From other patients
  - STAFF
- THERAPEUTIC ENVIRONMENT
  - Surroundings that do not interfere with treatment
  - Familiar, comfortable, complements healing process
  - In other words, NORMAL ... what is “Normal”?
    - “What we normally mean by normal is, I suppose, normally interpreted quite broadly”
      - Stefan Ludin – Architecture as Medicine
**PATIENT SAFETY - statistics**

- 75% of hospital suicides are on psychiatric units\(^1\)
- 1500 Inpatient Suicides per year\(^2\) (APA Study)
  - 1/3 on 15 minute checks…
  - 2/3 NOT on 15 minute checks
- Second most frequent Sentinel Event\(^3\) (Joint Commission, 2009)
- Patient Rooms and Patient Toilets most frequent\(^4\)
- 75% Hangings\(^4\)
  - doors and wardrobes
  - attachment points below waist

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**STAFF SAFETY**

- Patient to staff injuries
- Personal alarm devices
- Ease of observation
- Patients more comfortable in atmosphere are easier to treat
- Improved staff attendance and retention

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**THERAPEUTIC ENVIRONMENT**

- First Do No Harm
- Building cannot perform treatment
- Building can inhibit treatment
- Building can help make patients more comfortable and, therefore, easier to treat
- Does “Wood” = “Residential”?

**FLOOR PLAN – New Construction**

- Ease of observation
- Variety of spaces for patient activity
- Good arrangement and mix of staff areas

**FLOOR PLAN – Remodeling**

- Observation sometimes difficult
- Many features not appropriate for psych
- “Institutional Character” difficult to reduce
PATIENT FINISHES

- Institutional
- Normal

Ceilings
Walls
Base
Floors

DOOR HARDWARE

- Institutional
- Normal

Patient Room

SOMETIMES SAFETY NEEDS TO TRUMP AESTHETICS

- Less Safe
- More Safe

Patient Toilet

PATIENT TOILET ROOMS - Fixtures

- Institutional
- More Safe
FURNITURE
- Bed
- Wardrobe
- Night Stand
- Desk
- Desk Chair

PATIENT ROOM – HVAC, Lighting

ACTIVITY ROOMS - Storage
OUTDOOR AREAS - Enclosure

PRODUCT SUGGESTIONS

AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE

www.naphs.org

(then click on 'Design Guide…')

http://www.naphs.org/Teleconference/safetystandards.html#WhitePaper

OTHER REFERENCES

- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Office of Construction & Facilities Management
- Design Guide – Mental Health Facilities
  - July 2010
- New York State, Office of Mental Health Patient Safety Standards Materials and Systems Guidelines
  - [http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/patient_safety_standards/](http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/patient_safety_standards/)
  - (then click on 'this document')
SUMMARY – You CAN have it all
➢ Safe environment for patients
➢ Safe environment for staff
➢ Calming, healing environment
➢ Cost effective construction
➢ Staff satisfaction and retention
➢ Reduced liability exposure

Well … most of it anyway

Questions

Thank you

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Questions