



State of New Hampshire
Forensic Hospital Informational
Meeting

01/31/2022

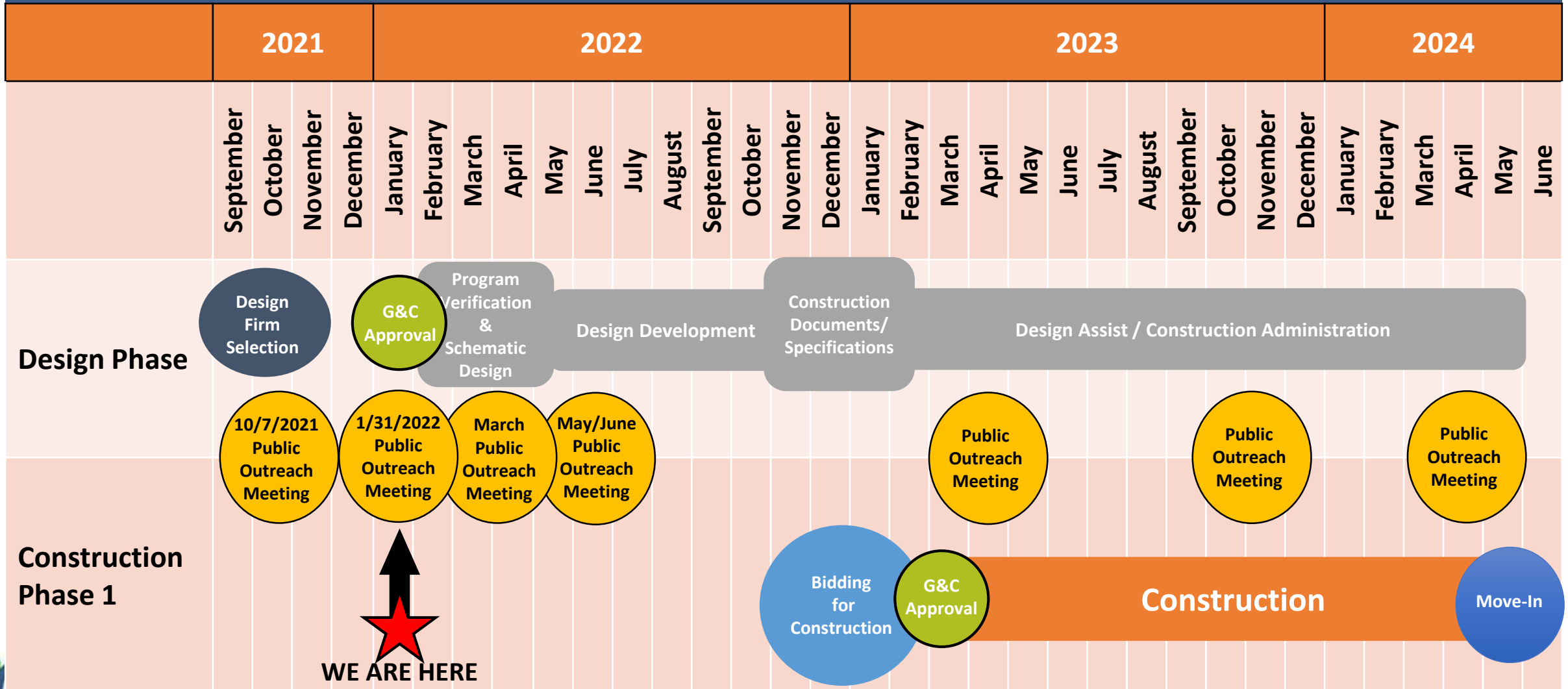
6pm



Agenda

- Highlights from the first Information Session
- Forensic Hospital Design/Construction Timeline
- Forensic Hospital Patient Population
- Forensic Programs in New Hampshire: Current State
- Forensic Patient Care Best Practices
- Forensic Programs in New Hampshire: Future State

Forensic Hospital Design/Construction Timeline



Forensic Hospital Patient Population

- Patients involved in the criminal justice system and suffering from serious mental illness.
- Patients accused of an unlawful act but can not go to trial because of their illness.
- Patients have been found not guilty of the unlawful act because the act was the result of their illness.
- Patients who have not committed an unlawful act but, because of their mental illness, are too dangerous to be treated at a conventional psychiatric hospital.



Forensic Treatment in New Hampshire: Current State

Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU)

- Mentally ill offenders from Men's/Women's Prison general population
- Mentally ill persons from County Jails/House of Corrections
- Civilly committed patients who are too dangerous for NHH
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial (ICST)

NHH

- Civilly committed patients
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial
- Mentally ill persons from County Jails/House of Corrections

Forensic Patient Care Best Practices

- Daily/weekly assessments with doctor and nurses
- Psychiatric medications
- Individual and/or group therapy sessions
- Groups focus on mental illness, substance abuse, stress and anxiety management, and coping, social and interpersonal skills



Forensic Treatment in New Hampshire: Future State

NHH

- Civilly committed patients
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial (ICST)
- Mentally ill persons from County Jails/House of Correction

Forensic
Hospital

- Civilly committed individuals who need a higher level of supervision
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Incompetent to Stand Trial (ICST)

Forensic Patient Care In NH: Future State

- Therapies specific to the needs of forensic patients
- Treatment will be overseen and provided by trained mental health professionals in hospital setting rather than in a prison environment
- Much like at NHH, security will be provided by safety professionals specifically trained in mental health-centered approaches



Forensic Patient Care Best Practices – Discharge Process

Forensic patients are considered by their doctors for discharge when:

- they are no longer a danger to themselves or others
- they are able to care for themselves
- a severe mental illness is treated

Several steps ensure these conditions are met, including:

- independent risk assessments
- internal administrative review process
- court oversight and approval
- conditional discharge agreement

Questions

If you have additional questions, please email nhhadminsupport@dhhs.nh.gov

Link for this evening's presentation:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/nhh/forensic-hospital-sessions.htm>