



FUTURE - DENVER VA MEDICAL CENTER - AURORA, COLORADO

PROJECT EAGLE UPDATE

April, 2011

As the design phase comes to a close, staff are making final reviews, focusing on the function of their space. Great examples include, clinic staff addressing questions such as: when Veterans visit the new facility for a clinic appointment where will they park, how will they get to the check-in desk, how far will they have to walk to get to an elevator, can they identify where the clinic is once they step off the elevator, etc. The entire process is being analyzed to make sure that it is convenient, intuitive, and efficient for Veterans.

Another major activity underway is the design peer review. When VA designs a major construction project, there is a process to ensure it meets all VA criteria, all accrediting body criteria, National Fire Protection codes, OSHA rules, etc. The VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management have field experts in architecture, mechanical, plumbing, fire safety and many others. They will review the plans for their area of expertise. The VA also hires an independent reviewer to examine all of the documents. Finally, the integrated design construction firm Kiewit-Turner will review the documents to make sure they can build as the design was intended. For the final design over 2,200 drawings were submitted.

Once all groups review the documents, the Joint Venture Team (JVT) who responsible for the design will need to address how concerns will be handled. For example, it may be that a room in one of the clinics is missing an electrical outlet. That discovery is then entered into the data base. During the week of April 18th all groups will meet to review the data base. After the meeting, the JVT will need to go into the data base and respond and describe how they will fix the issue. Only after all comments are addressed will the project move forward into construction documents.

Respectfully,

Jordan Schupbach
Public Affairs Officer
VA ECHCS

