

State of Alabama, DMH: Bryce Hospital Replacement

Tuscaloosa, Alabama



The level of funding for this new replacement hospital was determined by the revenue from the sale of existing hospital land plus a funding source set aside by the legislature. Programming and planning efforts that were completed before architecture+ joined the design team were on track to deliver a project that would cost at least 26% more than the allocated funds.



As a subconsultant, architecture+ provided programming, planning, design, and specialty advisory services. We worked with the project team to improve the efficiency of the overall program and to reduce costs to the level of the available funding. The result was an inexpensive, efficient, and modern hospital. The result was a 25% reduction in the programmed square feet and a reduction in construction costs. This was achieved by reusing existing nearby campus assets for administrative and support areas and by developing a building configuration that would accommodate all of the required direct care and support services functions in a significantly reduced floor plate.

While exploring siting options, we developed several different configurations for the location of the floor plate and the number of stories. The selected site allowed for administrative areas to be located in an adjacent building and connected to the new facility. This was essential for the reduction of the size and cost of the hospital and resulted in a building that could be constructed with the available funds.

The new \$56 million, 261,611 square foot replacement hospital has 268 beds (including 170 acute and intermediate care adult beds and 98 adult forensic beds). It includes classrooms, medical and dental clinics, fitness facilities, interior courtyards, a cafeteria, barber shop, library, chapel, and post office. The Hospital was occupied in the summer of 2014 and has been deemed a first rate facility by the client and the community. Upon its opening the Governor of Alabama stated, "This is one of the most fantastic facilities that I have ever seen!"