

## Kings County Behavioral Health Center

Brooklyn, New York



The objective of this \$104.5 million project was to consolidate all of the hospital's behavioral health functions into a single building. Although free-standing, a bridge connects the Center to the administration building for easy access by staff. The building contains 314,000 square feet on eight stories including a total of 227 beds plus six extended-stay observation beds. It serves acute patients and includes child and adolescent programs, adult services, substance abuse services, a comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs, and two outpatient and ambulatory clinics.

This project creates significantly improved operational efficiencies, the opportunity to share space for similar functions between departments, as well as improved staff efficiency derived from the integration of services in close proximity under one roof. By featuring both inpatient and outpatient services for chemical dependency patients on the second floor, adults on the third through fifth floors, and children and adolescents on the upper two floors, departmental staff can quickly and efficiently flow from the inpatient to outpatient areas, thereby creating staff efficiency.

We explored opportunities to both share and consolidate functions while addressing the need for security and the complex hierarchy of circulation that results from this co-location of inpatient (locked units) on the same floor as the related outpatient services. The design therefore needed to create separate night and day areas. We designed a courtyard and located the inpatient and outpatient areas so that they would receive as much natural light as possible. Staff spaces are centrally located in the facility. Program areas have multiple access points so that space can be reconfigured as changes are needed.