



Wellness Environment Rooms to Make Statewide Premier in Groesbeck

LIMESTONE COUNTY, September 14, 2006 - Limestone Medical Center's new hospital design will feature "hospital rooms of the future," the first of their model in Texas.

"We are proud to be partnering with Wellness Environments, a Nashville based firm that is transforming the delivery of healthcare," said Penny Gray, CEO of the Groesbeck facility. "This is a unique room design that has been utilized with patients and clinicians giving the rooms superior ratings as compared to traditional design. Add in the financial benefits available to Critical Access Hospitals, our decision to bring Wellness Rooms to Texas is a win-win situation for everyone."

LMC is building a new, almost 60 thousand square foot facility to replace an aging building experiencing significant structural problems. Almost 5,000 of America's hospitals built during the 1960's and 1970's are in the same dilemma as LMC. These hospitals are looking for construction technology that will serve them for many years as well as prepare for impending changes in mandatory codes and standards. "We are building this hospital for the future, not just for today," said Gray. "The designs we implement must be durable, financially feasible, and adaptable for many years. That is some of the reasons we chose Wellness Rooms.

According to Gray, the wide applications of Wellness Environment designs were a determining factor behind the rooms. "These rooms may be used in all patient and clinical areas, treatment areas, emergency, and diagnostic units," explained Gray. "We have chosen the applications that give us the best return on our investment in construction costs and operations."

Each room will have an in-room Nurse Station that provides a separate area for nursing and staff to utilize while remaining in the room. According to Gray, who is a registered nurse and former nurse educator, the station is a great enhancement in requirements for infection control. "We have a great record for infection control at LMC, but with the surge in antibiotic resistant strains across the nation, we want to provide the safest, most sanitary environment for our patients and their families. These room designs provide that enhancement."

Rick Linder, Regional Vice President of Wellness Environments said recently that Wellness Environment Rooms were a child of the 'clean room' designs, implemented in laboratory systems across the nation. "These rooms have grown into a format that is well lit, comfortable for both patient and visitor, efficient, and easy to clean. It takes half the time to install the room components on-site as compared to traditional construction, significantly reducing building cost," said Linder.