



For many years to come, the Department of Mental Health Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital will serve to instill hope and forward the promise of recovery from mental illness and a life of independence and self-determination for all those who pass through.

Goals of the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital

DMH inpatient facilities promote recovery and resiliency and are integral to the continuum of care for all consumers across Massachusetts. They are vital to achieving the DMH mission and our commitment to Community First — promoting recovery for consumers and a life of independence and self-determination in communities of their choice.

Benefits of the New Hospital

The 320-bed recovery center and hospital will serve 260 adults and 60 adolescents from across the Commonwealth.

State-of-the-art facility fulfills three key priorities for DMH continuing care services

- Provides a high-quality, safe and respectful treatment setting while promoting active rehabilitation.
- Promotes recovery and return to community living as soon as possible.
- Promotes operational efficiencies and cost effectiveness.

Components of Clinical Care

- Multidisciplinary treatment teams including psychiatry, psychology, social work and occupational therapy with nursing care.
- Medication administration and medication education.
- Opportunities for therapeutic interventions including individual therapy, group therapy related to illness management and family outreach counseling.
- Focus on health and wellness.

Care and Choices for Patients

- WRCH incorporates elements of light and movement, inviting consumers to move from their unit into “neighborhoods” of shared clinical activity space to community areas that feature a bank, gym and other aspects of community living, fostering recovery and community reintegration.
- Multi-disciplinary treatment teams develop individualized treatment plans which may include individual and group therapy, rehabilitative services, and psychopharmacology.
- These features are recognized by architectural and accrediting agencies as essential for promoting dignity, choice, and respect for people with mental illness.



Hospital Design: A Facility Within a Community

Design of WRCH is revolutionary, as it emulates within the hospital the natural structure of home, neighborhood, and community.

WRCH is state-of-the-art because of its therapeutic approach of promoting patients’ ability to move from small to larger group interactions.

WRCH design is flexible and can accommodate future advances in clinical care and adapt to address the ever-changing nature and needs of adults, youth and families.

State of the Art Performance

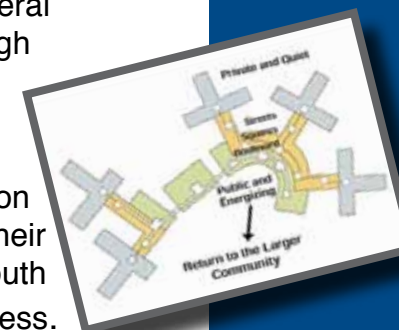
WRCH is achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification

- Energy efficiency and water conservation
- Healthy Indoor environment
- Low-maintenance/long life materials
- Reduced environmental emissions
- Waste Recycling
- Building Management Systems technology
- Systems commissioning and operational training

A Remarkable Collaboration

WRCH is a remarkable collaboration among DMH, DCAM, Ellenzweig Associates and Gilbane Construction Co. – the general contractor selected by DCAM through an open and competitive process.

Hundreds of stakeholders have offered time, expertise and dedication to this project. We thank them for their commitment in support of adults, youth and families with serious mental illness.



The stained glass windows in the non-denominational chapel were designed by young adults at the UMass Adolescent Continuing Care Unit. They worked with an artist from North Carolina who brought their design to life.

The Making of a New DMH Hospital for Massachusetts

February 2004: DMH Inpatient Study Report to the General Court recommended the consolidation of Worcester State Hospital and Westborough State Hospital and construction of a new facility.

2005: The Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) and DMH partnered in a study with Ellenzweig Associates, Inc. and a diverse group of stakeholders to determine the optimal design for a new hospital.

2005: The Legislature convened the “DMH Facility Feasibility Commission”, which was comprised of legislators, consumers and family members.

2006: The Feasibility Commission recommended that a DMH hospital be sited on the existing Worcester State Hospital campus.

Spring 2007: The Legislature and Administration accepted the Commission’s recommendations and a Bonding Bill was passed.

DCAM Designer Selection Board selected architects Ellenzweig Associates, Inc. and Architecture+, a firm known for designing psychiatric facilities.

Spring 2009: The Groundbreaking and construction started.



August 2012: The Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH) Opens.



In Gratitude

The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH) represents an evolution in modern public psychiatric care and treatment and a remarkable collaboration among scores of stakeholders in the mental health community. Since 2005, when the first meeting of the Department of Mental Health Facility Feasibility Commission took place, the guiding principles for this historic project have always focused on recovery for individuals with serious mental illness and Community First, the Department's initiative that focuses on a person's reintegration into the community. The Department of Mental Health believes that recovery from mental illness is not only possible, it is real.

We take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the hundreds of individuals, agencies and organizations who for the past seven years have dedicated their energy, expertise and hard work to creating the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital and the hope we know it will bring to many. WRCH is designed to foster dignity and respect for all those who come through our doors using the building's features themselves guide the recovery journey for adults and adolescents who need continuing care level of services. WRCH will lead the nation, and possibly the world, in how clinical treatment and the recovery model can restore purpose and independence to persons whose lives have been interrupted by serious mental illness.

A crowning achievement of this magnitude could not be possible without the commitment, faith and compassion of many. To name them all would fill volumes, but we attempt here to acknowledge these remarkable folks who have made their mark on this extraordinary facility.

We thank the members and staff of the Department of Mental Health Feasibility Commission and the Massachusetts Legislature whose leadership and support for citizens with serious mental illness is unparalleled.

We thank Governor Deval Patrick, Lt. Governor Timothy Murray and Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. JudyAnn Bigby who through their tenure have placed the Administration's support behind WRCH and our Community First initiative, ensuring that citizens with serious mental illness are treated with dignity and respect and are afforded opportunities for the best care and treatment in the nation and ultimately, the hope for recovery.

We thank both Commissioners Barbara Leadholm and Marcia Fowler who through their respective past and current tenures have led the Department and our stakeholders, community, consumers and families to believe in recovery, Community First and a new psychiatric hospital for the citizens of Massachusetts.

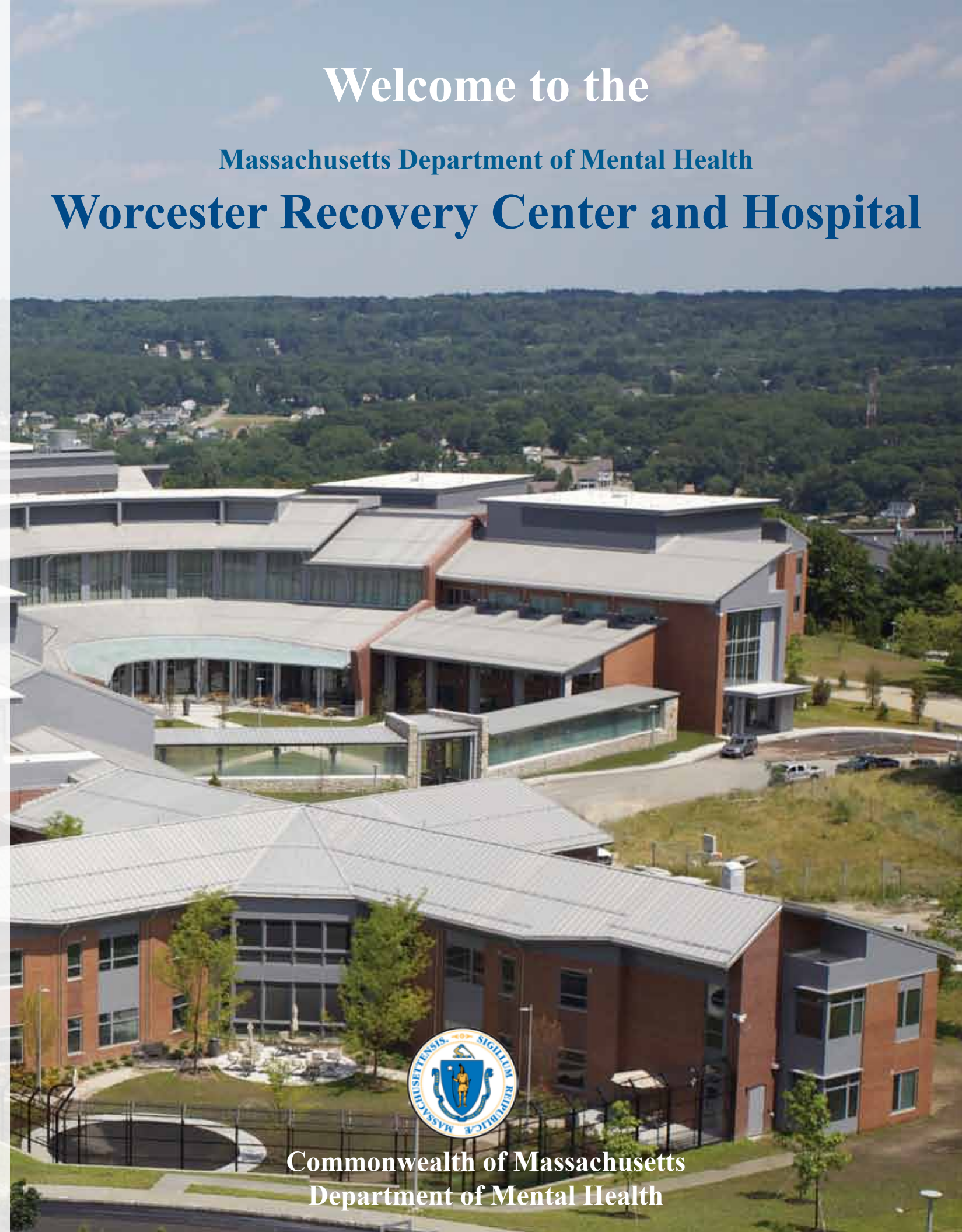
The success of this project would not be possible without the partnership of the Division of Capital Asset Management; Ellenszweig Associates; and Gilbane Inc., who for the past five years have worked collaboratively and closely with DMH and our stakeholders to conceptualize, design and build the most revolutionary public psychiatric hospital in the country.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the many DMH staff who over the past five years have spent countless hours working on WRCH and informing a ground-breaking hospital design so that our recovery focus is infused in every aspect of the building and grounds. Thank you for your contribution to WRCH.

We would not have truly succeeded in this project without the input and counsel of those who are impacted directly by the services, care and treatment we provide. We are ever indebted to consumers, peers, youth, families, their advocates and supporters who made important contributions to the design of WRCH, and especially the young people of DMH who designed the beautiful stained glass windows in the Chapel.

It was an entire community that conceptualized and created the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital and on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth, we extend our enduring gratitude.

Welcome to the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Mental Health