

Facts & Figures

Owner: Angleton Danbury Medical Center, Angleton

Type of Project: Renovation and expansion of a medical center

Project Manager: Carter A. Burgess, Houston

Architect/General Contractor: The Reed Group, Dallas

Size: 17,000 square feet (renovations), 24,000 square feet (new construction)

Cost: \$10 million

Construction Time: April 2004 - April 2006

The Need: Renovations and expansion to update all areas of the medical center

The Challenge: Performing a temporary shutdown to move electrical panels in the facility

Supportive Team Members

Jaco Construction, Inc.
Hooper, California

Quality Partners, Inc.
Dallas, Texas



Photos courtesy of The Reed Group

Angleton, Texas

Angleton Danbury Medical Center Renovations and Expansion

An appropriate blend of innovative technology and excellent patient care is behind the newly renovated and expanded Angleton Danbury Medical Center in Angleton.

Before setting out to renovate and expand the existing facility, Angleton Danbury Medical Center conducted a community needs assessment and traveled around the country to look at existing facilities for ideas, said Paula Stevens, associate administrator for the medical center. "By the time we got with an architect, we already knew what we wanted to do," she said. "We knew we had one shot and wanted to make it our best and most efficient."

Originally, the medical center planned on a five-year timeline for completing the project, but thanks to the design-build approach, the work was completed in 24 months. And after the 24 months, the resulting facility truly reflects the hospital's mission of improving the health status of its community.

Before the renovation, the majority of the hospital's rooms were semi-private, but now the hospital is 99.9 percent private, said Stevens. The doors were widened for easier access, and all rooms are ergonomic. "Everything

is at the patient's bedside," she said. "Schematically we put things where they made sense. We also have direct bedside triage and direct bedside registration for patient ease." Another patient comfort includes the hospital's implementation of the Vocera Communications System, a hands-free voice communication system. "We are a healing facility and wanted to do away with the overhead paging." There is also now a wireless network available for the patients.

According to Stevens, the most innovative aspect of the project was the utilization of the design-build delivery method. In fact, the hospital district had to change legislation in order to do it. To date, this is the only community hospital in Texas to utilize the design-build approach, and the benefits were numerous. In addition to the time savings, the owner saved 10 percent in costs.

One of the biggest challenges in completing the renovation and

expansion was that the hospital could not completely shut down during the construction. Only one time did the hospital shut down and it was only for a span of four hours when electrical panels had to be moved from the basement to other floors. "We had to go on full utility shutdown," said Stevens. "It went smoothly, however, due to the tremendous amount of teamwork and backup generators. Staff was on stand-by during the whole event. We had extra equipment out and a command center set up." The shutdown went smoothly and the hospital shortly returned to its normal pace of work. "We did not receive one complaint."

Completed in April 2006, the renovation and expansion of the medical center was a resounding success, due in large part to the team members' commitment to the project. ■

— Natalie Blythe

