



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Carole Szpak
202/393-6700, Ext. 101
comm@naphs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATED 6.1 EDITION OF THE DESIGN GUIDE FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

(Washington, D.C., February 26, 2014).....As new products have become available to assist psychiatric and addiction treatment facilities in improving safety, the authors of a highly regarded reference guide on the built environment in behavioral health facilities have issued an updated (6.1) edition of this online resource. ***Design Guide for the Built Environment of Behavioral Health Facilities: Edition 6.1*** is available free on the website of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) at www.naphs.org.

Written by national experts **James M. Hunt, AIA, NCARB**, and **David Sine, ARM, CSP, CPHRM**, the publication identifies specific items and manufacturers (with model numbers and photographs) to explain why hundreds of resources (from door levers to security glass) are appropriate for use in the behavioral healthcare setting. The document was first issued in 2003 as *Guidelines for the Built Environment of Behavioral Health Facilities* and reissued in subsequent editions between 2007 and 2014 as the *Design Guide*. The 6.1 edition of the guide is intended to help those who are involved in caring for patients within an existing behavioral healthcare program as well as those designing a new building or renovating space. The text is searchable (using CTL+F).

"NAPHS is pleased to make this practical resource from experienced safety experts available to the field at no charge," said NAPHS President/CEO **Mark Covall**. "NAPHS does not endorse or recommend any specific product, nor does exclusion of a product indicate disapproval. However, we believe that it is important to share ideas that can help in the process of continuously enhancing patient safety and improving patient care. Previous editions of this publication have been extremely well received by the field, and we appreciate the authors' efforts to incorporate new products and thinking into the updated 6.1 edition." The document is not intended as a legal standard of care that facilities are in any way required to follow. **Download a free copy of the guide at www.naphs.org.**

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

James M. Hunt, AIA, NCARB, president of Behavioral Health Facility Consulting, LLC, in Topeka, KS, is a registered architect and facility management professional with more than 40 years' experience. Among other positions, he served as director of facilities management for the Menninger Clinic for 20 years and was a founding member and past chair of the Health Care Council of the International Facility Management Association. **David Sine, ARM, CSP, CPHRM**, president of SafetyLogic Systems in Austin, TX, is an expert in safety, risk management, human factors, and organizational consulting. He serves as a member of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code Subcommittee on Health Care Occupancies and The Joint Commission Committee on Healthcare Safety.

ABOUT NAPHS

The National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) advocates for behavioral health and represents provider systems that are committed to the delivery of responsive, accountable, and clinically effective prevention, treatment, and care for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with mental and substance use disorders. Its members are behavioral healthcare provider organizations that own or manage more than 700 specialty psychiatric hospitals, general hospital psychiatric and addiction treatment units and behavioral healthcare divisions, residential treatment facilities, youth services organizations, and extensive outpatient networks. The association was founded in 1933.

#####