

## HEALTHCARE

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**The architect's rendition** of Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport is pictured here as presented to the Toledo City Council. Construction on the new three-story building began in June. (Photo courtesy of Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital)

# Samaritan head updates council on new building

BY JOAN BROWN

Of the News-Times

NEWPORT – A new three-level medical center is under construction as the first phase of a multi-phase, complex plan to upgrade Samaritan Pacific Community Hospital and the way healthcare is practiced.

Construction on the new three-story building began in June and won't be ready until October 2018, said Lesley Ogden, MD of SPCH. The new building will serve inpatients, she told the Toledo City Council at their Wednesday, Aug. 2 meeting.

Following construction of the three-story building a hospital facility built in 1988 will be remodeled. When that is completed, close to the end of 2019, the hospital's original 1950 era building will be demolished.

Complexity of the plan involves resituating the hospital's clinics while maintaining continuity of care. Ogden said the hospital works with construction partners to make everything happen with as little disruption to patients as

possible.

"We need to keep very organized in allocating resources, in coordinating training and staff – and of course the logistics of getting supplies. Some of it is expensive equipment," Ogden said.

During moving times, no disruption of emergency services is expected, and will be stringently avoided.

"Basically, we're just taking it systematically. We're really trying to make sure we have a complete understanding of needs," said Ogden, and added they keeping on a strict timeline.

To pay for the new facility, Pacific Communities Health District voters approved Bond-Measure 21-163 in May 2015 for obligation bonds not exceeding \$57 million.

The size of the new building and remodeled 1988 building will total 126,000 square feet.

Along with new buildings and equipment, a nuclear medicine service line is in the plans, and an expansion of mental health care.

"Our services will be grown to meet needs," Ogden said.

"We certainly hope our efforts here will attract a lot of [employment], especially physicians."

The new facility will have 25 in-patient beds, which is the same as the existing facility. "Inpatient census is 13-15 daily," Ogden said. The goal is for that not to change.

"As health care gets better, we anticipate less inpatient visits. You'll see here, and across the nation, growth of outpatient numbers," she said. "The name of the game is patient wellness, not to just treat illness."

SPCH wants to treat the whole patient, and not wait until someone is ill. The point is to be more proactive, to work in partnership with patients, to take a very different approach to health care, and to start doing so now.

The new facility will promote communication between healthcare providers.

"Every provider can talk to every other provider," Ogden said. "We're even minimizing moving around the hospital, it's a different way to deliver health care. We're very excited."