



# Prairie View

## For Immediate Release

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### **Prairie View Expands Older Adult Inpatient Services, Updates Rooms**

Newton, Kan. – Fifty-five years after opening its doors to treat the behavioral and mental health needs of the surrounding population, Prairie View continues to meet the demand for services. Most recently, its inpatient unit – the longest-standing private psychiatric hospital in the state – responded to changing demographics by converting to all private rooms and making additional beds available for older adults.

These changes are all elements of a comprehensive effort to increase focus on an aging population and to increase overall satisfaction for patients of all ages, said Jessie Kaye, president and CEO of Prairie View.

Prairie View continues to admit patients 18 years of age and older, with no upper age limit set as long as the patient is medically stable upon admission.

“The demographics are changing nationally, and older adults are the fastest growing population,” said Mary Carman, Ph.D., vice president of older adult services.

In 2006, the percentage of Americans aged 65 and older totaled 12.4 percent, according to the government website [www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov). Harvey County totaled 16.7 percent the same year.

According to Kaye, while the baby boomer population ages, an unprecedented demand and shortage of providers for older adult services of all types, including mental/behavioral health services and substance abuse treatment, is created.

“We are expanding and becoming more responsive to the changing preferences of this generation of older adults based upon their lifestyle choices and life experiences being very different from previous generations,” she said.

Older adults generally respond well to treatment for problems like depression, anxiety and other psychiatric symptoms but they often require a bit longer to treat. While some of the basic clinical skills required to treat older adults are the same as those needed to treat adults, there is additional knowledge and added skills needed to treat older adults, said Carman. Prairie View Older Adult Services staff have this additional training and experience in working with the older adult population.

In order to effectively serve this population, inpatient staff continue to receive ongoing training, some of which is led by Prairie View’s’ Older Adult specialists and medical staff and some by other older adult experts in the area.

Each patient works with an experienced, multidisciplinary team consisting of a psychiatrist, psychologist, ARNP, master’s social workers, mental health workers, recreation therapists and art therapists.

Every older adult receives a neuropsychological screening test, a complete physical evaluation and a thorough evaluation of all medications and potential side effects. An older adult specialist, either a social worker or psychologist, provides individual and group therapy, and works with the family.

After discharge, family members, the primary care physician and the long-term care facility in which the patient resides, if applicable, receives a discharge summary and Practical Intervention Plan, which provides detailed information on what works with this particular person.

While the patient is at Prairie View, he or she will have an individual room with more privacy, invoking comfort and security.

“When our clients are well-rested, feel safe and are in pleasant surroundings, their ability to deal with difficult issues is strengthened,” said Kaye.

Approximately half of the 20 rooms have already been updated with the look of a suite, complete with a separate sleeping and living area, fresh paint, border, linens and furnishings.

All rooms should be completed by the end of the summer, depending upon occupancy, said Lance Maley, MHA, FACHE, vice president of inpatient services.

Common areas have also been remodeled to meet the comfort of patients and their visitors.

Prairie View is a private behavioral and mental health services provider, offering a complete range of behavioral and psychiatric services for children, adolescents, adults and older adults, as well as consultation services to businesses and organizations. In addition to the main campus, including outpatient offices and a psychiatric hospital in Newton, Prairie View has outpatient locations in Hillsboro, Hutchinson, McPherson and Wichita.