

## **Why is the timing NOW to rebuild Fulton State Hospital?**

- In 2009, the national economic recession gravely impacted Missouri revenues. Because of this economic situation, the Department of Mental Health initiated a System Redesign of its inpatient facilities to make the best use of its reduced resources while maintaining critical services for clients.
- At that time, Fulton State Hospital (FSH) was operating over 470 beds. DMH believed that the fiscal reality was that the state couldn't afford to build a new 470 bed maximum security psychiatric hospital that cost \$340 million.
- Early in 2010, DMH talked to the Governor about reducing beds at Fulton State Hospital from its current 471 to 300 to make the facility more manageable and to reduce the replacement costs. As part of the System Redesign, the DMH moved all minimum security placements to other state psychiatric hospitals and reduced the psychiatric capacity at FSH over the two years to 300 maximum and intermediate security beds.
- As a result, the replacement cost of Fulton State Hospital dropped to \$211 million. In addition, by downsizing FSH and relocating patients to other appropriate facilities, space was made available on the campus to house the overflow of the Farmington Sexual Offender Rehabilitation Treatment Services (SORTS) program and avoid a \$70-80 million capital cost expenditure to meet the mandated growth of that program.
- Also, it was the joint decision of DMH and the Office of Administration's Facilities Management and Design and Construction (OA-FMDC) that all possible capital maintenance costs at Fulton State hospital be deferred to avoid having the state make costly corrections to an aging infrastructure that was not designed to safely handle severely ill and dangerous forensic patients now served at Fulton State Hospital. Over \$70 million in capital maintenance costs were deferred.
- The Governor's Office was appraised of the above actions from 2008 forward and provided continuing support to DMH to enact this plan, despite significant controversies surrounding these actions. The Governor visited Fulton State Hospital a number of times between 2008 and 2014, waiting for DMH to complete its inpatient redesign efforts and the return of economic growth in Missouri in anticipation of rebuilding Fulton State Hospital.