

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DESIGN GUIDE 3.0 ADDS NEW RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES

(Washington, D.C., February 4, 2009).....As new products have become available to assist psychiatric facilities in improving safety (particularly around suicide prevention), the authors of a highly regarded reference guide on the built environment have issued an updated third edition. ***Design Guide for the Built Environment of Behavioral Health Facilities: Edition 3.0*** is available free of charge on the Web site of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) at www.naphs.org.

Written by national experts **David Sine, ARM, CSP, CPHRM**, and **James M. Hunt, AIA, NCARB**, the one-of-a-kind 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 second editions in 2007 and 2008 as the *Design Guide*. The latest edition (3.0) includes new material and products that reflect the growing attention and activity around suicide prevention in the field. 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.

“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 third 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 at www.naphs.org**.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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. **James M. Hunt, AIA, NCARB**, president of Facility Services, Inc. in Topeka, KS, is a registered Architect and facility management professional with more than 30 years experience. Among other things, 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.

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 600 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.

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