

February 5, 2007

CONTACT: Kevin B. Lewis, CEO
SWFAS
(239) 332-6937

Susan Bennett, APR, CPRC
Susan Bennett Marketing & Media
(239) 277-5255

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWFAS AWARDS CONTRACT FOR NEW DETOX CENTER

Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) has awarded the architectural contract for its new Detoxification Center and Outpatient Treatment Center to Burt Hill/Pollock Krieg Architects, Inc. of Fort Myers.

The new 40,000 square foot Detoxification Center will be built on land on Evans Avenue donated by the City of Fort Myers under a long-term lease. The four-acre parcel also will include room for outpatient counseling offices now located on McGregor Boulevard.

The new Detoxification Center will replace the existing 25-bed facility on Dixie Parkway in downtown Fort Myers that is housed in a 47-year-old converted motel.

“Burt Hill/Pollock Krieg Architects was selected from among several excellent candidates based on the strength of their proposal and their experience in building Detoxification Centers in other parts of Florida,” said SWFAS CEO Kevin B. Lewis.

An \$8 million capital campaign to build the new Detoxification Center and Outpatient Treatment Center currently is underway.

The new 40-bed facility is needed to alleviate what officials call “a crisis in substance abuse services in Southwest Florida.”

“There isn’t a day that passes that we aren’t forced to turn away people in need of immediate detoxification because there are no beds available,” said SWFAS Executive Director Kevin B. Lewis. “It truly is a tragedy in progress.”

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More than \$3.1 million has been raised for the new facility so far, including major gifts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, State Housing Initiatives Program through the Board of Lee County Commissioners, Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Lee Memorial Health System, and others.

SWFAS plans to break ground later this year with completion one year later.

SWFAS is the largest and oldest comprehensive substance abuse treatment and prevention program in Southwest Florida, serving 6,000 people per year from ages 9 to 90. SWFAS offers outpatient and residential programs for both adults and youngsters from six locations in Lee County. Fees are charged on a sliding scale, based on family income. In many cases, private insurance is accepted.

For more information about the campaign or to make a gift to SWFAS, call Lewis at 332-6937.