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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWFAS AWARDS CONTRACT FOR NEW DETOX CENTER

Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) has awarded the construction contract for its new Detoxification Center and Outpatient Treatment Center to Owen Ames Kimball Co. in Fort Myers.

The new 44,000 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.

“OAK was selected from among several excellent candidates based on the strength of their proposal and their experience in Southwest Florida,” said SWFAS CEO Kevin B. Lewis.

Burt Hill/Pollock Krieg Architects, Inc. of Fort Myers was previously selected as the architect for the project and is in the final design stages.

A \$9 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.”

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“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.”

More than \$5.3 million has been raised for the new facility so far, including major gifts from the Lee County Commission, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) 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 Southwest Florida’s most comprehensive substance abuse treatment and prevention program, operating from nine offices throughout Lee and Hendry counties. Since 1980, SWFAS has helped more than 63,000 residents in Lee, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties rebuild their lives. SWFAS offers treatment services at all levels of intensity including residential, outpatient counseling, and group therapy for both adults and adolescents. In addition, SWFAS provides detoxification services for adults, prevention programming for all ages, and an Employee Assistance Program for about 80 Southwest Florida businesses.

For more information about the campaign or to make a gift to SWFAS, call Lewis at (239) 278-7595, ext. 700.