

# AAJ16: Green Corrections: The Next Big Thing is Wellness!

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### **Course Description**

Over the last 15 years, the green movement in corrections has focused on resource conservation and green maintenance. Federal, state and local agencies have continued to raise the bar on how to reduce the impact of the building on the environment.

The Next Big Thing in green corrections is a paradigm shift to addressing: "How do you enhance the wellness of the occupants?" Delos Living founded the International Well Buildings Institute which has metrics for assessing wellness. Environmental factors that improve wellness include supporting the diurnal cycle for sleep, access to natural light, views to nature, air quality, thermal comfort, acoustic quality, and the ability to walk around.

This workshop will introduce the Well Building concepts, explore strategies for creating wellness in correctional environments and the opportunity to improve outcomes such as lowering recidivism by creating environments that support the rehabilitative process.

### Learning Objectives

- Understand the Green movement and its influence in corrections
- 2. Learn the **concepts and intention behind the WELL standards** by Delos Foundation, administered by the International Well Buildings Institute (IWBI).
- 3. Review research-based correctional environment studies
- Connect to a real-life challenge the County of Los
   Angeles' experience with mental and medical health issues
   within its detention environment
- 5. Identify practical applications of **Well Building opportunities** in correctional environments.

# Green Corrections: The Next Big Thing is Wellness

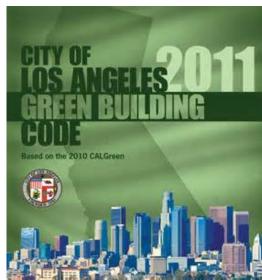
Academy of Architecture for Justice 2016 Fall Conference, Honolulu, HI

# A Brief History of the Green Movement

- Sustainability and LEED (16 years ago)
- Innovations in materials and systems
- Energy efficiency and codes
- Mandates and goals







# Green is not just about the building

- Expanded definition of sustainability
- Green operations, green jobs training
- AIA Sustainable Justice and "Green Guide for Justice"
  - Societal Scale: Emphasize positive outcomes
  - Community Scale: Engage community
  - Building Scale: Minimize resource usage
  - <u>Human Scale</u>: Reduce stress, promote productive engagement



# Disruptive Influences in Corrections

- Great Recession Wake-Up Call
  - We can't build (or operate) our way out of the problem
- Politics We Can Agree on This
  - Both sides of the aisle concerned about criminal justice reform
- Mentally III, Aging, Special Needs
  - Straining facilities and operations that were not designed for it
- Technology Individualization
  - Solutions beyond building and staffing



Van Jones, Pat Nolan, Donna Brazile, and Newt Gingrich

## What is the Next Generation of Green?

#### - Paradigm shift

- How do you enhance the wellness of the occupants?
- How can we support wellness in a detention or corrections environment?

#### - Metrics

- Can wellness reduce sick days?
- Can wellness improve health?

#### Dividends in Corrections

- Can wellness increase rehabilitation?
- Can wellness decrease recidivism?

### Agenda

The Concept: The WELL Building Standard

The Research: Correctional Environment Applications

The Challenge: Los Angeles County Experience

The Application: Wellness in Corrections

**The Opportunity:** The Role of a Leader

**Dialogue** 

### Presenters

**Zoe Reich Margarites,** Vice President Delos Living

**Erin Persky,** Justice Facility Planner Jay Farbstein and Associates, Inc.

**David L. Fender,** Chief, Custody Services Division Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

**Beverly Prior,** FAIA, LEED AP, Vice President AECOM

# WELL Building Standard The Concept

Zoe Reich Margarites, Vice President Delos Living

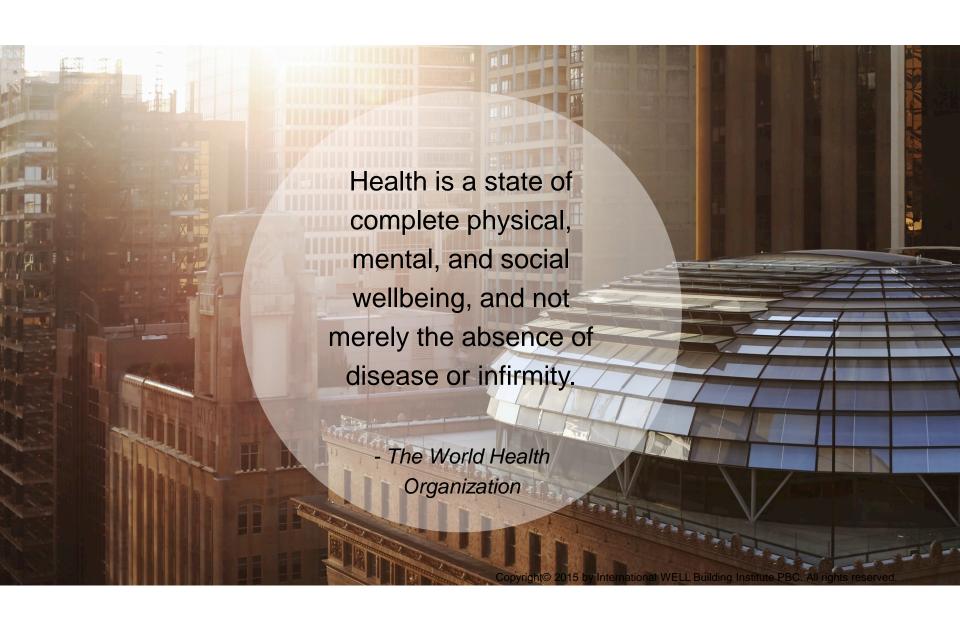
#### The WELL Building Standard

LEADERSHIP IN HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Zoe Reich Margarites, Vice President, Delos Solutions









#### We spend over 90% of our time indoors.

THIS HAS A PROFOUND IMPACT ON OUR HEALTH, HAPPINESS, PRODUCTIVITY + WELL-BEING.





Fewer Negatives, More Positives

[+] PHYSICAL HEALTH

[-] SOCIETAL COSTS

**HEALTHCARE COSTS [-]** 

**MENTAL HEALTH [+]** 

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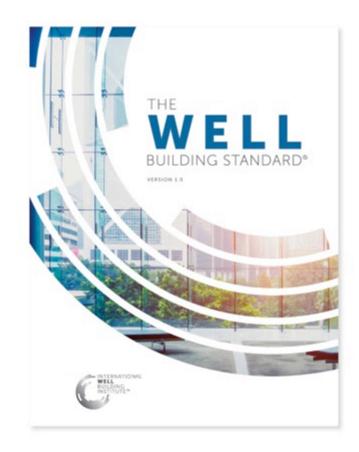


WELL is an internationally recognized mark of excellence for buildings, communities, and professionals that are transforming the building industry.

Mission is to improve human health and well-being through the built environment by administering the WELL Building Standard.

Pioneers the model of altruistic capitalism and, as a public benefit corporation, the IWBI donates 51% of profits into health and wellness projects, either within highly impacted/stressed communities, or reinvested within the communities where WELL projects are built.

- Provides a model for design and construction to integrate human health features in the built environment
- Is a performance-based system to measure impact of built environment on human health



#### Levels of WELL Certification





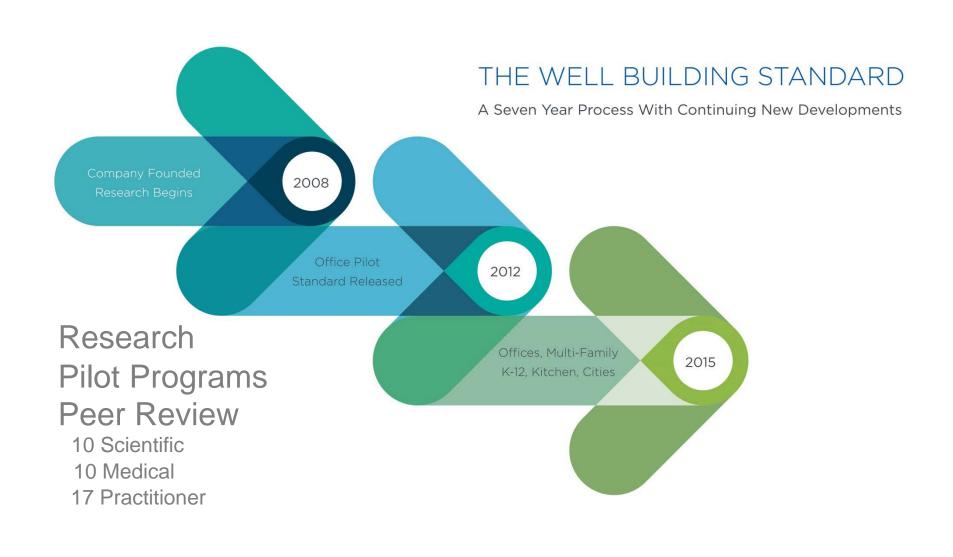


### IWBI + GBCI





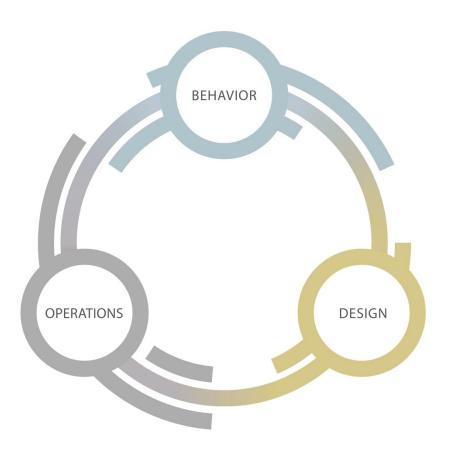
Ensuring that certification for **WELL** and **LEED** works seamlessly.



# WATER NOURISHMENT

#### Seven Concepts

WELL sets performance requirements in seven concepts, relevant to occupant health and well-being in the built environment



#### COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

WELL is a comprehensive approach to human health while addressing the elements of the built environment through the seven concepts of the WELL Building Standard and through features focused on: Behavior, Design and Operations.

#### WELLNESS AND BODY SYSTEMS

The components of the WELL Building Standard are ascribed to body systems to obtain a comprehensive set of strategies that help classify the benefits of WELL Building Certification.

The WELL Building Standard analyzes the body through the following categories:

Cardiovascular

Digestive

Endocrine

Immune

Integumentary

Muscular

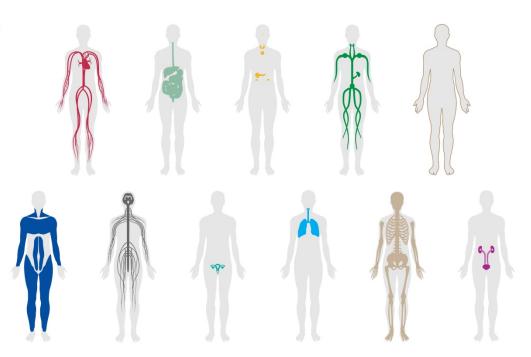
Nervous

Reproductive

Respiratory

Skeletal

Urinary



#### Performance

**Material Selection** 

Ventilation

Filtration

**Moisture Control** 

**Construction Processes** 

Source of Concern Protection

Maintenance + Operations

# AIR FEATURES SUMMARY

# WATER FEATURES SUMMARY

Performance Testing

**Treatment** 

Maintenance + Operations

**Hydration Promotion** 

# LIGHT FEATURES SUMMARY

Visual Acuity

Circadian Design

**Daylighting** 

Glare Control

**Color Quality** 

**Daylight Responsiveness** 

### NOURISHMENT FEATURES SUMMARY

Access to Healthy Foods

Environmental cues

**Healthy Portions** 

Allergies and Alternatives

Transparency

**Food Production** 

**Food Preparation** 

Mindful eating

## COMFORT FEATURES SUMMARY

**Thermal** 

Acoustics

Ergonomic

Olfactory

Accessibility

# FITNESS FEATURE SUMMARY

Interior Active Design

**Awareness And Habits** 

Physical Activity Programs

**Exterior Active Design** 

Physical Activity Spaces

**Activity Based Working** 

## MIND FEATURE SUMMARY

Wellness Awareness & protocols

Connection to Nature

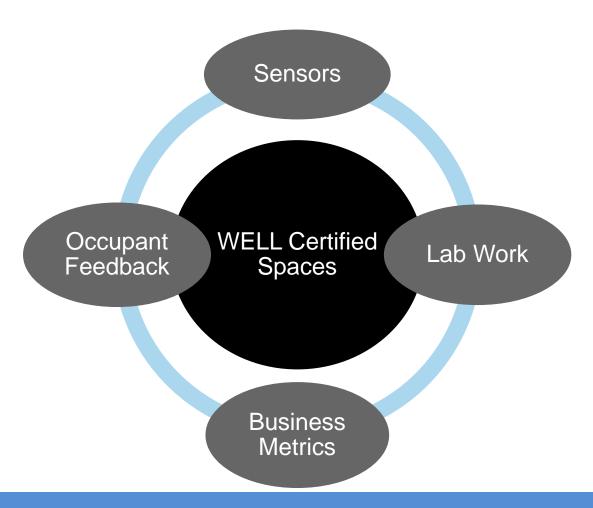
Adaptable Spaces

**Aesthetics and Innovation** 

Stakeholder Engagement

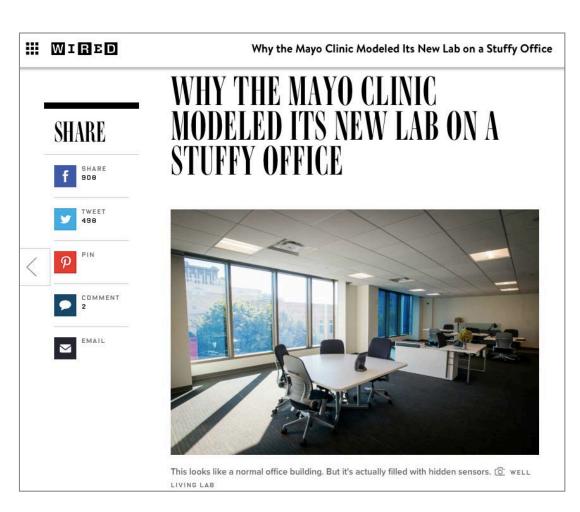
**Altruism** 

Transparency



### Hardening the Data

## WELL LIVING LAB



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#### + What is the Well Living Lab?

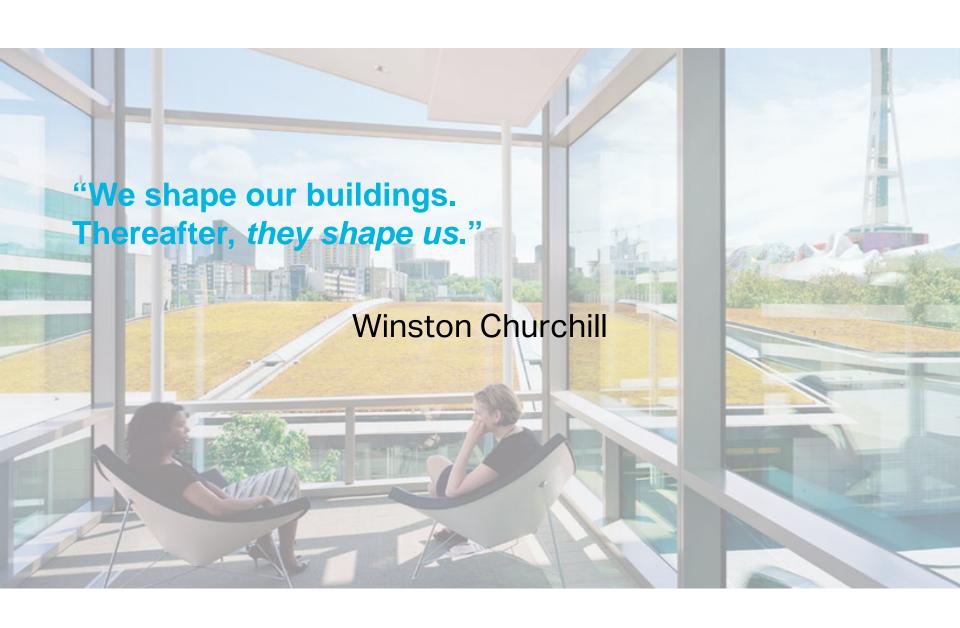
WELL LIVING LAB

THE FIRST RESEARCH CENTER DESIGNED TO:

Validate the real-world impact of indoor environments on human health and well-being

Generate evidence-based information that can be used in practical ways to create healthier indoor spaces





# Applications to the Correctional Environment The Research

Erin Persky, Justice Facility Planner Jay Farbstein and Associates, Inc.



restorative environments

therapeutic environments

biophilic environments

- Emerging area of exploration: we are at the frontier of the application of evidence-based planning and design strategies to corrections and detention.
- Much of the research we look to for "evidence" was conducted in healthcare facilities and office spaces, etc.
- Creating wellness environments begins at the conception of the project! If wellness is left for the design process, it is already too late.

## TOTAL INSTITUTIONS

"A basic social arrangement in modern society is that the individual tends to sleep, play, and work in different places, with different co-participants, under different authorities, and without an overall rational plan. The central feature of total institutions can be described as a breakdown of the barriers ordinarily separating these three spheres of life."

## TOTAL INSTITUTIONS

"Whether a particular total institution acts as a good or bad force in civil society, **force it will have...** The total institution is a social hybrid, part residential community, part formal organization...**In our society, they are the forcing houses for changing persons; each is a natural experiment on what can be done to the self."** 

Magnified effects of a total institution environment.

## TOTAL INSTITUTIONS

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Health and Fitness
- Education/ Vocational Training — Courts
- Religious
- Food Services
- Laundry
- Housekeeping Services
- Maintenance Areas Vehicle

- Workshops
- Warehousing/ Storage
- Office Spaces
- Security Functions
- Meeting Spaces
- Visiting and Social Spaces
- Training Spaces
- Maintenance

- Information Technology
- Armories
- Transportation Services
- Booking
- Courier Services
- Storage
- Infrastructure

"Does this decision promote the creation of a wellness environment?"

#### **Inmates**

Reduced fear and stress
Better health
Reduction in stressrelated disease
Less disruption of
circadian cycle
Faster recovery/shorter
stays in infirmary
Better behavior

Better program participation

Less violence

#### Institution

·Lower cost of construction

and repairs
Improved control
Fewer/less serious incidents
Reduction in health care costs

#### Staff

Greater job satisfaction

Less stress and fatigue
 Fewer errors
 Better health

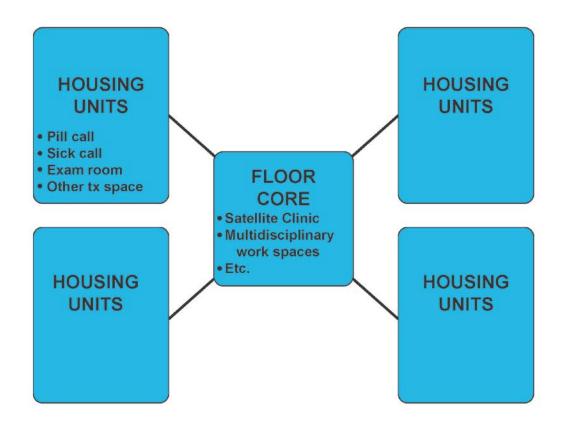
 Reduction in stress-related
 diseases
 Fewer sick days

 Greater sense of control
 Fewer/less serious injuries

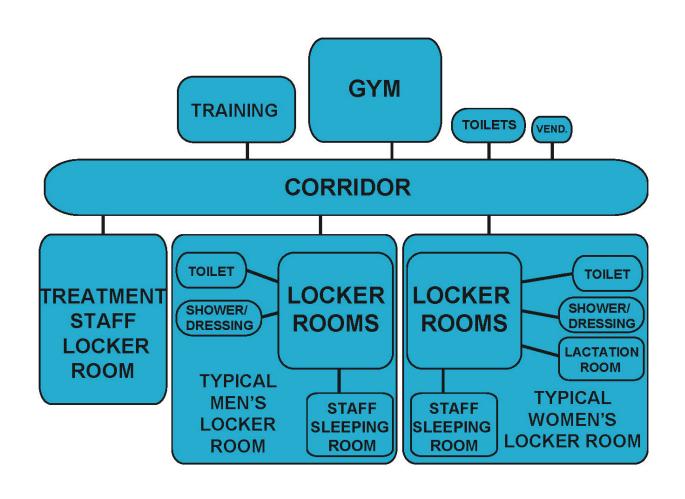
#### **Ergonomics**

Reduction in falls and injury
from scuffles
Less fatigue and more
effective work at staff and
control stations
Less wasted movement
Better visibility
Fewer work-related injuries

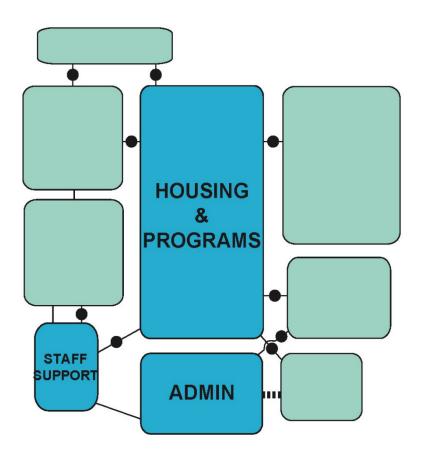
#### Inmates



#### Staff



#### Institution



# Los Angeles County Experience The Challenge

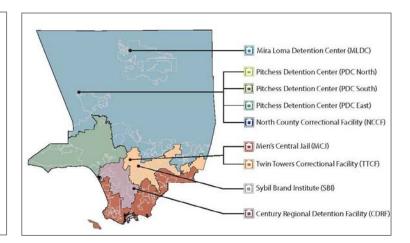
David L. Fender, Chief, Custody Services Division
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department







## Los Angeles County





# Wellness in Corrections Strategies and Solutions

Beverly Prior, FAIA, LEED AP, Vice-President AECOM

## Wellness in Corrections

- Levels of Sustainability in Justice
  - Societal
  - Community
  - Building
  - Individual

Wellness in Corrections

+ Operations

## **Environment: Impact on the Inmate**

- Negative effects are magnified in correctional facilities.
- **Key problem** areas:
  - inmates' lack of control over daily needs, activities
  - the simultaneous experience of crowding and isolation
  - absence of **natural elements.**
- Each create an impediment to inmate health and rehabilitation

An individual's perception of being helpless to change their future can affect their motivation to change their behaviors.

## Wellness Challenge

- In correctional environments, it is hardly possible to attain the level of man-nature interaction due to
  - Building Codes
  - Security
  - Safety
- Our challenge: Creating correctional environments that meet requirements for
  - security and safety;
  - and address the human need to connect with nature.

### Wellness in Corrections

- Light
   Daylight and Views
- Nourishment
   Inmate nutrition
- Comfort
   Controllability of environment



## Light: Circadian Cycles

#### Access to Daylight

- People benefit positively from contact with sunlight.
- Increased access can reduce pain, anxiety and depression
- Too little exposure to sunlight can have detrimental effects.
- Sunlight guides hormone regulation and the circadian system.
- Inmates and staff typically have insufficient access to daylight



## Light: Circadian Cycles

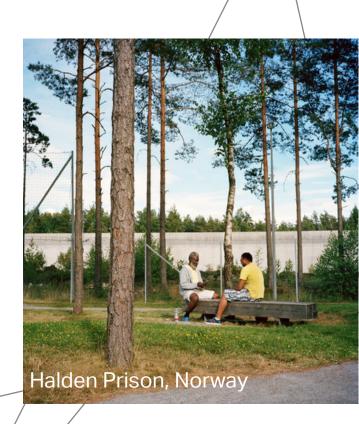
- Not all daylight is created equal
- Windows are considered as prescriptive requirements rather than opportunities to enhance the quality of the environment.
- Consider glare, uniformity, contrast
- Used correctly, daylight can be your friend
  - Enhance passive security / safety
  - Improve the quality of space for inmates and staff



## Light: Escapism

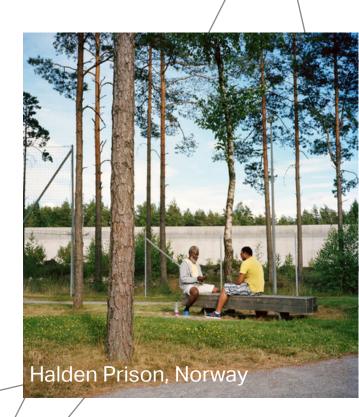
#### Views of Nature

- Our bodies need more than just access to daylight
- Psychological benefits attributed to exposure to views of nature.
- Natural environments can reduce physiological and psychological stress
- A view allows an individual to "turn off" his brain and refresh his mind.



## Light: Escapism

- Exposure to and interaction with nature provides wide-ranging personal benefits
- Access to nature is linked with
  - Increases in serenity, optimism, energy, and general happiness
  - Decreases in stress, aggressive behavior, and feelings of depression, idleness, and boredom...all common challenges in Corrections facilities



## Light: Escapism

- Quality of views
  - A view of the sky and clouds is not a high quality view
  - Guidelines of view of horizon aren't always practical
- Rec yard openings are driven by:
  - Security requirements
  - Ventilation requirements
- Result is sense of diurnal swing, change in light temperature but no meaningful connection to outside world and nature.



## Nourishment: Inmate Nutrition

#### Obesity is a growing issue

- The majority of justice-involved individuals are overweight, obese, or morbidly obese.
  - In prison settings: 74%
  - In jail settings: 62%.
- ~2X the rate in the U.S. general population
- The cause: common Inmate Diets
  - Often very few food choices available
  - High in fat, salt, and complex carbs.
  - Sodium intake is over twice the recommended level for men and women

Fat and sugar taste too good!

## Nourishment: A societal issue

- Population is increasingly obese.
- Nutrition of school meals is increasingly questioned.
- Jamie Oliver demonstrated to Los Angeles Unified Schools that they could produce healthy lunches within the existing budget of \$.77 per child.
- Corrections challenge: average cost per meal is \$1.30 per inmate (30% greater than Jamie Oliver's budget!)



## Nourishment: A glimpse of the future?

#### San Francisco Jail

- Menu planned 6 weeks in advance.
- Approved by certified nutritionist
- 20+ options, including:
  - Gluten-free
  - Vegetarian
  - Kosher
- Trends towards lower resultant medical costs per inmate.



## Comfort: Controllability

- Direct Supervision has increased the level of trust and respect between the inmate and officer.
- Often falls short of providing inmates direct control over their environment
- Control of your environment can give psychological and physiological benefits
  - Thermal comfort
  - Visual comfort
  - Acoustic comfort



### **Comfort: Visual**

- The quality and brightness of light can affect behavior, attitude, morale.
- Improvement of healthy sleep patterns, as well as the proven effect that light can have on the human body and psyche, can reduce the psychological stress posed by incarceration.
- Adaptable Kelvin-changing LED lighting for correctional facilities can
  - save on energy costs;
  - while also improving inmate
     behaviors, morale and attitudes



#### **Comfort: Acoustic**

- Noise pollution is a chronic problem in correctional facilities.
- Seeking "TV dominance" in the dayroom
  - Individual head sets can reduce tension in dayrooms and reduce noise pollution.
- Night-time noise can disrupt sleep patterns.
  - Bedphones can control background noise and reduce stress.



### **Comfort: Thermal**

- Crowd source technology can now create opportunities to enhance inmate control of thermal comfort thru basic button technology.
- Uses weighted average to control temperature in cell block based upon inmate and staff feedback.



## **Environment: Impact on the Staff**

• Environmental stressors not just an inmate issue

Relationship between correctional

environments and health of corrections staff

- Obesity
- Cardiovascular issues
- Stress
- Lack of exercise
- PTSD is prevalent within the correctional officer occupation



#### Value of Wellness

- Wellness should not be seen as discretionary
- Embracing wellness features is a fundamental obligation to support basic human health
- It is also a huge opportunity to innovate Corrections environments.

Tell somebody they cannot get better, they won't.

Tell somebody they can, and they might just have a chance

 So what if we believed in the value of wellness in making people better.....

#### Value of Wellness

#### **USA**

- Average annual cost of US inmate
- Typical medical cost per US inmate
- Incarcerated Population
- Total annual cost

- \$31,000
- \$ 6,000
  - circa 2.4 Million
  - circa \$74.4 Billion

#### Impact of Enhancing Inmate Wellness

A modest 1% reduction in re-incarceration of those typically caught in the cycle would save \$750 million a year.

A 10% reduction in the medical care of the general population (excluding mental health) as a result of enhanced wellness would save a further \$1.3 billion a year.

Reduced recidivism allows repurposing of public funds

## Wellness: Step Change in Design



- Ideas presented have achievable evolutionary progress.
- We **need to take a step change** in design approach:
  - How can we extend high quality daylight penetration beyond the rec yard and into the dayroom and cells?
  - How can we introduce a calming material and color/ palette into the environment?
  - How can we attenuate unwanted background noise?
  - How can we enhance occupant controllability?
  - How can occupants better connect with nature?

## The Role of a Leader The Opportunity

David L. Fender, Chief, Custody Services Division

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

# Dialogue Strategies and Solutions

## What could you do to fix that broken wellness window?

## Dialogue

To create a more well environment:

- What <u>small</u> moves could you do?
- What <u>large</u> moves could you do?
- What are your biggest <u>opportunities</u>?
- What are your biggest <u>barriers</u>?

## Thank you!