

Preckwinkle Opens \$86 Million Jail Medical Center



By [Emily Morris](#) on June 13, 2013 12:11pm

[@EmilyMorris21](#)



President Toni Preckwinkle presides over the Cook County Board. File photo.

DNAinfo/Ted Cox

LITTLE VILLAGE — Cook County officials unveiled an \$86 million medical center Thursday that they hope will help Cook County Jail inmates better tackle pervasive substance abuse and mental illness. County Board President Toni Preckwinkle opened the 276,450-square-foot medical facility at the jail, 3015 N. California Ave.

The Residential Treatment Unit will treat substance abuse and mental illness, and provide general health screenings and evaluations, county officials said.

Preckwinkle, who has been outspoken about the jail's overcrowding issues, called the facility an investment that could pay off if fewer inmates were re-jailed for persistent drug problems. "... We'll be able to identify health needs at the outset of detention, treat these individuals while they are in our custody, and hopefully lower the rates of re-entry that are far too common within Cook County," Preckwinkle said in a statement.

The RTU will have 979 medical beds and more than 200 staff members, Preckwinkle's office said. It will also have a medical and psychiatric screening facility, 24-hour crisis and intervention services, a correctional psychiatric care clinic and secured exterior recreation yards.

The building has a green roof area of approximately 23,000 square feet, according to the city. More than 85 percent of the jail population has tested positive for drugs, Preckwinkle's office said, a statistic that has been echoed nationwide.

The high rate of mental illness has also helped make Cook County Jail the largest mental healthcare provider in the state, officials said.



President Preckwinkle Opens Medical Facility at the Cook County Department of Corrections

BY BARBARA.MALOOF ON JUNE 13, 2013

Media Contact: President's Press Office

press@cookcountyil.gov



Joined by Commissioner Butler and surrounded by Cook County Medical Staff and the project management team from the Bureau of Economic Development, President Preckwinkle opens the Residential Treatment Unit at Cook County Department of Corrections.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle unveiled an \$86 million medical facility at the Cook County Department of Corrections that will provide inmates at the jail access to critical health care services.

The Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) will provide treatment for substance abuse, mental illness, general health screenings and evaluations. The 276,450 square foot facility is part of President Preckwinkle's plan to modernize County infrastructure and create a more effective and humane criminal justice system. More than 85 percent of the jail population has tested positive for drugs. And many of those individuals suffer from an addiction that leads them to commit the crimes for which they are being held. The Cook County jail has also become the largest mental health care provider in the state because of the number of inmates who suffer from some kind of mental illness.

"It is my hope that the investment we're making in this facility will pay dividends because we'll be able to identify health needs at the outset of detention, treat these individuals while they are in our custody, and hopefully lower the rates of re-entry that are far too common within Cook County," President Preckwinkle said.

The RTU will include separate male and female intake units, a medical and psychiatric screening facility, 24-hour crisis and intervention services, a correctional psychiatric care clinic and secured exterior recreation yards. The RTU will contain 979 medical beds for inmates and a staff of more than 200.

"The Cook County Health System is focused on providing the best health care possible. The opening of the RTU will allow our team to treat inmates who need to have critical care access to medical services," said Dr. Raju, Chief Executive Officer of the Health System. The building has a green roof area of approximately 23,000 square feet and is seeking LEED Silver certification.

The Residential Treatment Unit will provide critical health-related services to inmates including substance abuse and mental illness treatment.



100 WEST
DEPARTMENT OF PAROLE

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT UNIT
+
RECEPTION CLASSIFICATION
DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

100



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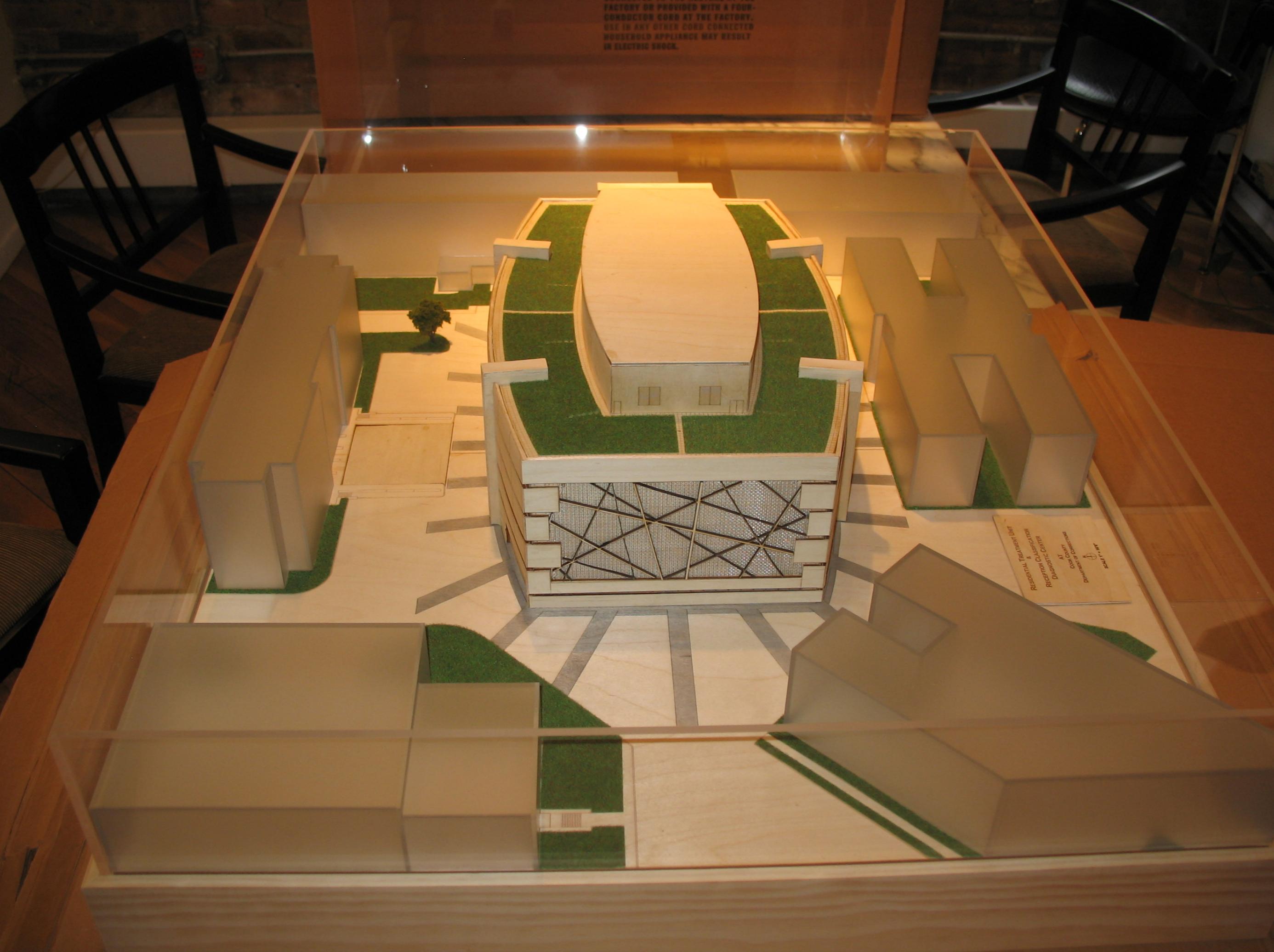






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CONDUCTOR CORD AT THE FACTORY.
USE IN AN OTHER CORD CONNECTED
HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE MAY RESULT
IN ELECTRIC SHOCK.



Residential Treatment Unit
Reception, Classroom &
Diagnostic Center
AT
Cook County
Department of Corrections
JULY 1997

NOTICE

CAUTION

FOR USE ONLY IN HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC RANGES, OVENS, OR SURFACE ASSEMBLIES WHERE THE EXPOSED METAL PARTS ARE CONNECTED TO THE NEUTRAL AT THE FACTORY OR PROVIDED WITH A FUSED CONDUCTOR CORD AT THE FACTORY. USE IN ANY OTHER CORD CONNECTED HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE MAY RESULT IN ELECTRIC SHOCK.





**NEW RTU
BUILDING**



DIVISION XI

