

Fundable Needs

Coordinator: Adam Martin/Amanda Damm

Fundable Need: Enhancing NICU Family-Centered Room Environment

Site/Facility: Aurora West Allis Medical Center

2018 Approved Capital:

2018 Fundraising Priority: YES

Call to Action: Enhancing Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Family-Centered Rooms

Proposal: Environmental update for 2 "Family Rooms" in the NICU including hardwired smoke detectors, with updated furnishings, flooring, lighting, and audiovisual equipment for family education.

Background: *Family-integrated/centered care* is a new model of care for NICUs across the country aimed at expanding psychosocial support for parents with more hands-on involvement.¹ The National Perinatal Association (NPA)² published recommendations encouraging NICUs to provide comprehensive family support in six areas: 1) expanding family-centered developmental care, 2) ensuring the availability of peer support for all parents 3) defining the role of mental health professionals in the NICU, 4) ensuring that palliative and bereavement care services are widely available with staff training 5) improving discharge planning and post-discharge support for families and 6) educating NICU staff in communication skills, parent support techniques, and self-care.

The Aurora Women's Pavilion's (AWP) Level III NICU of Aurora West Allis Medical Center opened in April of 2002 to provide a holistic approach to pregnancy and childbirth supported by the latest technology with all the comforts of home. NICU infants may be born at AWP or transferred for care from other outlying hospitals. The NICU at AWAMC provides life-saving care for approximately 16 infant admissions per month (range 10 – 30 infants/month). These infants stay in the hospital three weeks on average (Source – Hospital Census) but may stay 3-4 months depending on the situation. Many (>45%) NICU families are challenged financially with care funded by Medicaid or Self-pay.

Infants are admitted to the NICU when they are born before or near term (37 weeks) with traumatic delivery or need respiratory, nutritional, or other support because of health problems they are born with. Most preterm infants are not medically stable enough to go home at the time of their mother's discharge. They are typically cared for in the main NICU under the watchful eye of skilled nurses. As the infant stabilizes, the parents are encouraged to be involved in their care with skin-to-skin contact to promote physiological wellbeing and bonding with longer periods of time spent caring for the infant, receiving educational and emotional support, and planning for the transition to the home environment.

Uses for these Rooms:

- Providing parents/families to room together overnight to share special experiences that they may have missed out on during an early, often unexpected birth. Rooming in gives parents real-life experience with managing medical assistive devices such as home heart monitors and home supplemental oxygen and supports them to learn and practice skills for discharge.
- Infants who are in-patient for as long as three to four months with frequently changing medical needs can be housed in this room to provide a private space where multiple disciplines such as physicians, nurses, occupational and speech therapy, respiratory therapy, and social work can meet with parents and discuss complex medical diagnoses and treatment plans away from the daily activity of the rest of the unit.
- At times when a family needs to make the heart wrenching decision to discontinue support from their infant or when we experience a neonatal loss these rooms provide a quiet, private space to grieve. It is so important to our NICU team to provide a safe, comfortable environment to families during these stressful times.

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Note: The 4th annual Evening of Promise (2014) raised \$66,000 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Aurora West Allis Medical Center. The funds were used to purchase of a state of the art incubator ("giraffe bed"), a breast milk "depot" to increase the supply of nutrient-rich milk, and a family coach to help prepare families to prepare for and cope with the demands of a premature infant. We are grateful for the past support.

Funding Needs:

In 2018, Aurora West Allis Medical Center Board and the Aurora Health Care Foundation will reach out to area businesses, foundations and individuals in the West Allis and surrounding areas to raise a total of \$108,000 to enhance the NICU Family-Centered Environment at AWAMC

¹ Hall, S.L, Phillips, R., & Hynan, M.T., (2016). Transforming NICU care to provide comprehensive family support. *Newborn & Infant Nursing Reviews*, 16, 69-73.

² Hynan, M.T., Hall, S.L. (2015). Psychosocial program standards for NICU Parents. *Journal of Perinatology*, 35, S1-S4.