



Media Contact:
Maria Heim
Red Shoes PR, Inc.
Phone: (920) 574-3253
Cell: (920) 209-2323
E-mail:
maria@redshoespr.com

For Immediate Release - June 1, 2009

St. Elizabeth Hospital emergency room renovation provides improved waiting room experience

SoundCoustic™ Acoustical Wall Surfacing provides patients a quieter, more private visit for patients

APPLETON, Wis. - St. Elizabeth Hospital, part of Affinity Health System and a member of the Center for Healthcare Design (also known as Pebble Project), recently installed SoundCoustic™ Acoustical Wall Surfacing in its emergency room waiting area to quiet the space while providing a functional, decorative wall surface.

“Our providers are pleased with the feeling of increased privacy that this minor renovation gives to both our patients and our patients’ family and friends,” said Gary Kusinerz, Affinity Health System vice president of performance excellence. “It’s important for Affinity Health System to provide the best patient experience possible and installing these sound barriers in the St. Elizabeth Hospital emergency room helps provide the type of personalized care that our patients have come to expect from us.”

Staff surveys were conducted before and after the installation with results showing strong staff endorsement. Jerry Peterson, project coordinator at St. Elizabeth Hospital, oversaw the installation.

“The difference in sound absorption is quite noticeable,” Peterson said. “We knew for some time that we needed to do something about the noise in our emergency room and my team and I spent a lot of time researching options. It became obvious that SoundCoustic was able to provide the perfect solution for us and we are extremely pleased with the results.”

Terry Goodermuth, general manager of Arrow Audio, conducted sound testing before and after the installation.

“When tested in the applied area, the wall panels absorbs primarily in the mid-range band frequencies, which is where speech frequencies are located,” said Goodermuth.

###

For the editor: Affinity Health System, a Catholic mission-oriented regional health care network, is a partnership of Ministry Health Care and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. Affinity Health System is the

Fox Valley's third largest employer, according to the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and is ranked 24 among the top 100 integrated health care networks nationwide (Verispan 2008). Both St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton and Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh rank among the top 1 percent among hospitals nationwide in terms of quality and efficiency, as determined by the 2007 Premier | CareScience Select practice National Quality Award. Network Health Plan has achieved Excellent accreditation status from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the highest possible level. It is ranked 31st in the nation, according to the U.S. News and World Report/NCQA Best Health Plans in America listing. Members of Affinity include Mercy Medical Center and Mercy Health Foundation, Oshkosh; St. Elizabeth Hospital and the St. Elizabeth Hospital Community Foundation, Appleton; Affinity Medical Group, a regional network of 22 family practice and specialty clinics in 13 communities; Calumet Medical Center, Chilton; Network Health Plan, Menasha; and Affinity Occupational Health.

About SoundCoustic:

SoundCoustic Wall Surfacing (LEED IEQ credit 3.2 and 6.0) is a revolutionary monolithic acoustic wall system that is a tremendous alternative to more expensive wall carpeting, traditional acoustical panels and stretch wrap systems. For more information about SoundCoustic, Scandatex or Wet Room, please contact Chuck Hogan, 716.689.0108.