Planetree in Practice
A guide to incorporating Planetree components into your facility.
Kahler Slater Philosophy

Our philosophy is simple. We believe that the experiences and environments we create in health care must be operationally efficient, technologically advanced and flexible for the future, while at the same time holistically supportive of patients and their families, physicians and staff.
Human Interaction

*Human beings caring for other human beings, creating a healing environment for patients, families, and staff members.*

- What is the arrival concierge, information, check-in, “first impression” experience?
- Is staff behind glass?
- Do staff seem accessible?
- Are staff at eye level?
- Can a person in a wheelchair be seen by staff or are they obstructed by the barrier of a big desk?
- Can staff easily come out from behind the desk to greet/assist guests?
Family, Friends and Social Support

Contributes to the quality of the hospital experience by promoting caring connections between the patients and their support systems.

- How is furniture arranged in lounges, waiting, and patient care spaces?
- Is there flexibility for guests to move furniture around to meet the needs of their families?
- Can staff easily access extra seating to share information with families?
- What are the provisions for extra seating in patient care spaces?
- Can a bench double as storage and seating?
- Is a wardrobe cabinet large enough to accommodate additional folding chairs for guests/staff use?
- Can patients and guests control their environment and make adjustments as needed?
- Is there an option to control lighting in lounge spaces or patient care spaces?
- Are there accent lights, i.e. table or floor lamps, that allow for an adjustment of light levels to meet the needs of the users?
- Can window treatments be controlled by the patient or guest to allow maximum comfort within the space?
- Where can families or guests go for quiet, private conversation?
Information and Education

"Patients, families, and community members are provided with increased access to meaningful information."

- Where and how do patients or guests access health information?
- Is there a wellness or health resource center?
- Are there kiosks or other dedicated spaces where health information can be easily accessed?
- Are there conference spaces that are flexible to accommodate health education classes?
- Is this amenity advertised and clearly communicated to patients and their families?
- Does your signage or wayfinding let patients and guests know the service is available?
Nutrition and Nurturing Aspects of Food

Choice and personalized service, in combination with sound nutrition practices, add pleasure, comfort, and familiarity.

- Is there a centrally-located kitchen or nourishment area for families and guests?
- Are there amenities available such as a refrigerator, microwave, toaster oven, ice machine, water, coffee, etc.?
- Is this area clearly identified and convenient to all?
- Is there a kitchen that allows families to bring in their own food to cook?
- Do you have an opportunity for a vegetable garden to grow healthy food for dietary use in the cafeteria?
Arts and Entertainment

*Music, artwork, theater, crafts, and clowns offer engagement and enjoyment to enhance the clinical environment.*

- Does every patient care space have a positive distraction?
- Do you have a space for a permanent or revolving art program?
- Is there an educational wellness channel on patient room television?
- Does your art program provide diversity and variety for patients and families?
- Is the art subject matter appropriate for the function of the space? For example, more abstract pieces should be kept to public areas and not patient care spaces.
- Are there gathering spaces that can accommodate space for guest musical artists to come and play?
Spirituality

Planetree recognizes the vital role of spirituality in healing the whole person. From chaplains to meditation programs, hospitals can provide opportunities for reflection and support of spiritual needs.

- Where can families and guests go for reflection, prayer, meditation?
- Is there a dedicated space for meditation that is easily accessible and clearly defined?
- Is there clear signage and wayfinding to these spaces?
- Does the space allow for flexibility for many different religions to feel comfortable?
- Is there storage for different religious ritual items?
- Can a guest rearrange the room as needed to meet the needs of their particular religious practice?
- Are there quiet, contemplative spaces available in all patient care areas?
- Are there opportunities to have an outdoor garden or an outdoor labyrinth?
Human Touch

Touch reduces anxiety, pain, and stress, benefiting patients, families, and staff members.

- Is there enough space around the patient for families, guests, and caregivers to get close to the patient?
- Is there enough clearance for a person, chair, and any necessary medical equipment?
- Is there lightweight, moveable furniture available in the patient care areas to pull up right next to the patient?
Complementary Therapies

Expand the choices offered to patients. Aroma and pet therapy, acupuncture, and Reiki are offered in addition to clinical modalities of care.

- Are there dedicated spaces or flexible space for massage, Reiki, acupuncture, etc?
- Could you use an outdoor garden space that would support classes for yoga, Tai Chi, or Pilates?
Healthy Communities

Expand the boundaries of health care: Working with schools, senior centers, churches, and other community partners, organizations are redefining healthcare to include the health and wellness of the larger community.

- Where can you provide flexible conference or classroom space for community outreach classes or events?
- Are these spaces easily identified, accessible, and visible to the public for use?
- Are there spaces where community art can be displayed - either part of a permanent collection or in a revolving art display?
- Can you dedicate space for a community garden?
- Are there other opportunities to create gathering spaces to bring patients and community together?
When has health care ever been more challenging? Smarter, faster, leaner, better clinical outcomes, higher patient satisfaction scores, intense market competition – this is what our health care clients are facing every day. Our health care team enthusiastically partners with clients to face the future by designing health care experiences that are forward thinking, highly efficient and beautifully differentiating.

Planetree Visionary Design Network

Kahler Slater is proud to be one of only ten firms internationally accepted as a member of the Planetree Visionary Design Network. This certification establishes Kahler Slater as a specialist in evidence-based health care design that follows the Planetree values of patient-centered healing design.

For further information, please contact:

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Smart thinking. Beautiful results!
We design healing experiences.