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Architectural Builders Hardware provides specialty door hinges for new behavioral health center

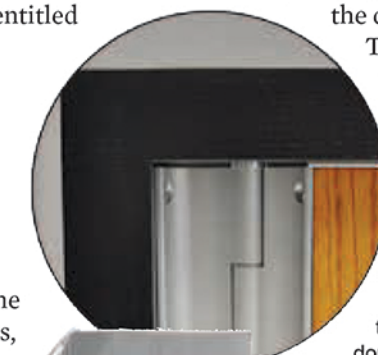
The New South Beach Psychiatric Center in Staten Island, New York is serving as an emergency hospital for COVID-19 patients, but will soon be opening its doors for the intended use of a behavioral health center. The project was built in response to the irreparable damage caused by Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The \$250-million, five-story facility has been built on higher ground and designed to withstand a storm of similar or greater magnitude than Sandy.

When open, the facility will feature 250 adult beds and 12 children's beds. The new building will provide both patients and staff with features and improvements that intend to improve patient outcomes and staff satisfaction. Dr. AnnMarie T. Sullivan, commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health, said she hopes

the new facility can also help remove the stigma that affects those who are mentally ill. "I think something like this can really help because it says that they, just like everybody else, are entitled to state-of-the-art treatment in a state-of-the-art building," Dr. Sullivan said.

Architectural Builders Hardware, or ABH, was selected to provide door hardware for the project. ABH designs, manufactures and distributes custom and standard commercial hardware products. The company's health-care products are used in applications that range from inpatient behavioral health facilities and hospitals to schools and hotels.

Throughout the project, over 1,000 newly developed behavioral health hinges were used that incorporated designs that removed all ligature points on the door hinge.



There were two different types

The A507 Double Acting Hinge is the only double-swing hinge that closes the gap between the hinge and frame. This hinge has a top alarm option and can self-close without an additional closer. It's used in behavioral health facilities, hospitals, correctional facilities or any institution where there are ligature risks.

Above: South Beach Psychiatric Center in Staten Island, New York.

of ABH hinges used: single-acting stainless steel hinges with zero gaps and welded hospital tips on most patient room doors, and double-acting alarm top hinges on certain specific patient room doors.

Single-acting stainless steel continuous hinges with zero gaps were designed to ensure a patient cannot insert an object through the hinge that will allow them to create a situation where they can asphyxiate themselves.

Double-acting aluminum continuous hinges with a gap close alarm mechanism will sound an alarm if a patient attempts to insert an object from the top of the opening to create a ligature point.

Door hardware is one of the most common areas a behavioral health patient will attempt to create a ligature point to inflict self-harm. As such, for many years, ABH, along with a variety of other door hardware companies, have responded with the introduction of new products. With the help and assistance of architectural design experts, facility managers and various other professionals who play a role in patient safety — the resulting products help reduce safety risks.

Design of these products will continue to evolve as the industry works hand in hand to produce products meeting the needs of this vulnerable patient population.

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