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“Lean” Engineering Analysis Insures Chilled Out Future

Using Lean Six Sigma Decision-Making Process and Analytical Dashboard To determine water plant optimization for new ED addition

Charlotte, N.C., June 2, 2008 - After an exhaustive review of emergency care, Wellmont Health Systems’ Bristol Regional Medical Center (BRMC) leadership concluded their future required the addition of a 20,000 square-foot Level II Trauma Center. To determine whether the current infrastructure could support the additional square footage, an in-depth assessment of the 13 critical plant systems was undertaken. It revealed a problem with the chilled water system.

Damon Greeley’s “Chilled Out” article published in the May issue of *Health Facilities Management* published by the American Hospital Association (AHA) gives readers a thorough description of BRMC’s engineering goals, the analytical process/tools used to solve the problem as well as the final outcomes of this interesting case.

During the process of determining and resolving the hospital’s chilled water issues, FreemanWhite engineers were able to meet the goals and financial objectives of BRMC by using a lean Six Sigma decision-making process and specialized analytical dashboards. The result was unexpected and yet proved ideal for the client. “We were relieved to find a solution that didn’t involve modifying the entire plant,” says Ben Spivey, construction manager. “By comparison, this was a quick fix - easily executed and reasonable in cost for maximum return.” What engineering client wouldn’t be happy with a plant analysis that results in the following?

- 1.) Supports future hospital growth without incurring the costs associated with major modifications
- 2.) Lowers kilowatt consumption in order to pay for the reduction improvements in a timely manner as well as reduce maintenance dollars over the long-term
- 3.) Maintains plan redundancy
- 4.) Improves indoor air quality for enhanced environmental comfort for patients and staff.

This case represents another example of client satisfaction where FreemanWhite engineers were listening, inquiring and solving problems for their clients. If you would like to read the entire article: http://www.hfmmagazine.com/hfmmagazine_app/jsp/articledisplay.jsp?dcrpath=HFMMAGAZINE/Article/data/05MAY2008/0805HFMM_FEA_Infrastructure&domain=HFMMAGAZINE