**Sutter SeniorCare PACE**

**By Emily Newcomb, Assoc. AIA, AAH Committee Member**

On June 27th the AIA AAH group will host a mid-day tour of a newly renovated 45,000-square-foot Sutter SeniorCare Primary Health Care for the Elderly (PACE). The tour will be led by the project team which includes, DesCor Builders, Dreyfuss + Blackford Architecture, and Sutter Health Facility & Property Services (FPS). This tour and discussion is an outcome of the recent rejuvenation of the AIA Central Valley’s Academy of Architecture for Health (AAH).

PACE is a Medicare and Medicaid program that provides comprehensive, holistic health care services to participants over the age of 55 in their home, community, and at a PACE facility. The focus of the PACE program is to provide high quality care and services to participants, to maintain health and independence, and to prevent premature nursing home placement. The program supports a team of interdisciplinary health professionals who deliver comprehensive care tailored to frail seniors and their families. PACE provides coverage for medical care, physical therapy, dentistry, prescription drugs, transportation, adult day care, meals, home care, hospital visits, and nursing home care.

This new center merges two existing PACE locations into one comprehensive facility, optimizing PACE participant experience and quality of care, improving efficiency, and allowing for future growth. For the design, Jaymi Alas, CID, interior designer for the project at Dreyfuss + Blackford Architecture, was inspired by the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers located near the building. “Where the rivers meet, critical changes occur that significantly alter what happens downstream,” said Alas. “In the same way, this facility has a profound effect on participants and staff, positively influencing the daily care provided and ultimately their long-term quality of life.”

Centrally located near downtown Sacramento and Interstate 5 in the River District, this renovated facility will provide a spacious adult day health center, adjacent Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHPD) level 3-compliant clinic space, as well as administrative staff support spaces. Additionally, the project will feature 10,000 square feet of outdoor courtyards for recreational programs and physical therapy activities for the health system’s senior participant population.

The overall design incorporates natural and organically-influenced materials combined with modern features to create a high-end, hospitality-inspired environment. Interior and exterior courtyards provide calming elements, tranquil outdoor views, and physical therapy activities for participants. Also included in the facility are areas for performances, crafts, gardening, meals, and salon appointments.

The interior and exterior renovations managed by DesCor Builders include a large, open activity room with high ceiling that showcase existing wood beams, a commercial kitchen, and new steel and stone bus entry canopy. “This project has been a great partnership with Sutter Health and a great enhancement to build for the neighborhood. It will absolutely contribute to the revitalization of the River District,” said Anthony Stonehocker, preconstruction manager at DesCor Builders. The new facility is set to open summer 2018 when the two existing PACE sites in Sacramento get transitioned over to this new location.