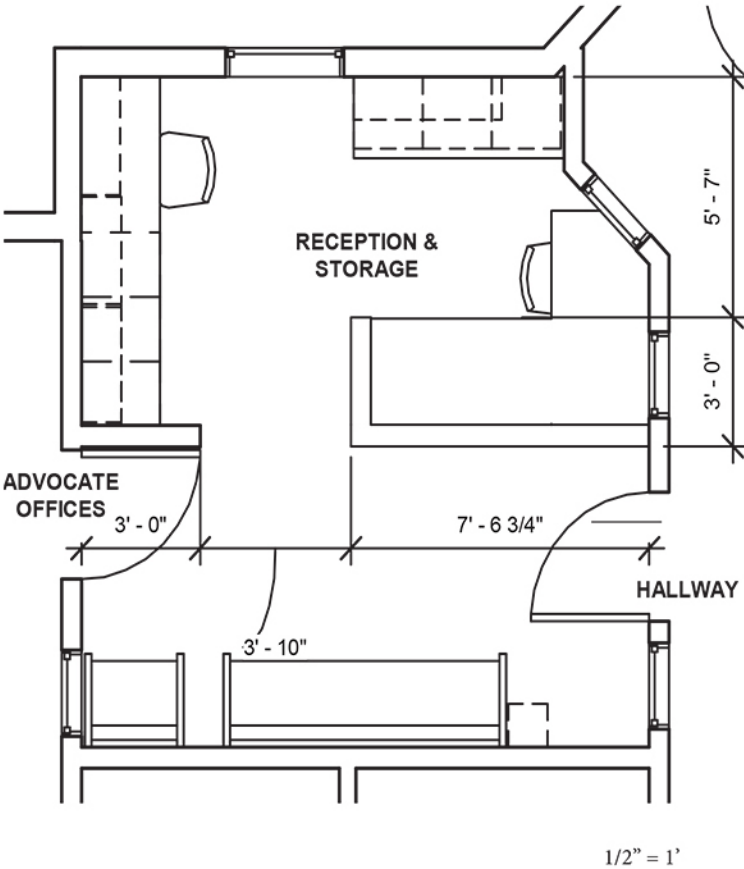


# Existing Reception and Lobby

Womens Advocates uses three houses in the twin cities to provide shelter for up to 50 women and children seeking shelter from domestic abuse. Each time the women and children enter the shelter they come in through the reception where they sign in. This reception space is also where residents might wait before meeting with an advocate in the adjacent office. Currently, the reception and seating area feels like a hallway given the location of the two doors. The color palette and room aesthetic does not foster the type of atmosphere the organization wants to provide for residents.

The staff wan to have an environment that encourages feelings of calmness and warmth. Some elements of the room to change are the general color palette, the room layout, and the furniture. New options would need to provide the same amount of storage and work space for staff.

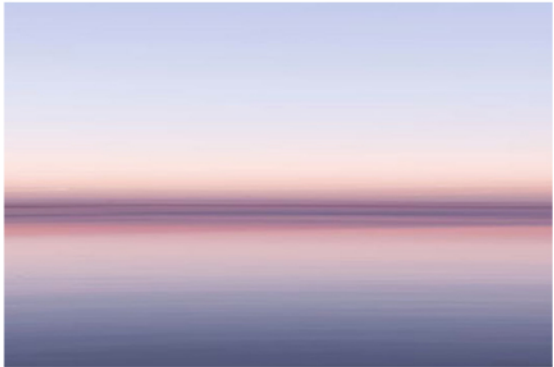
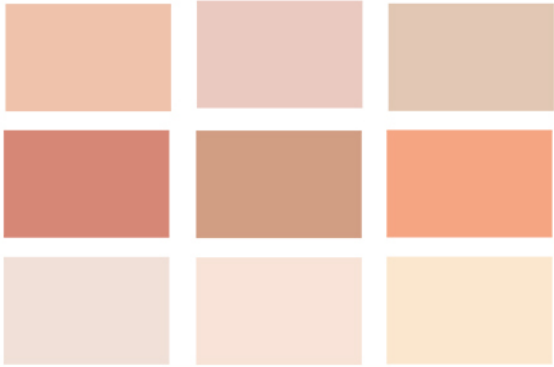
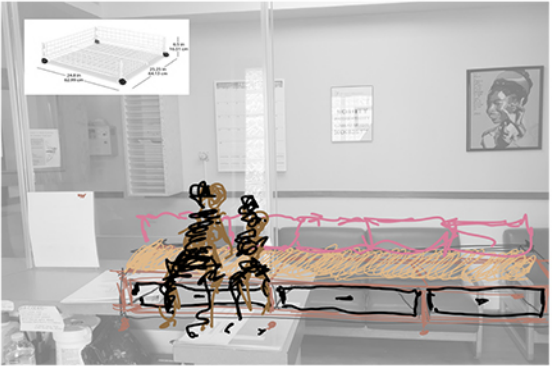
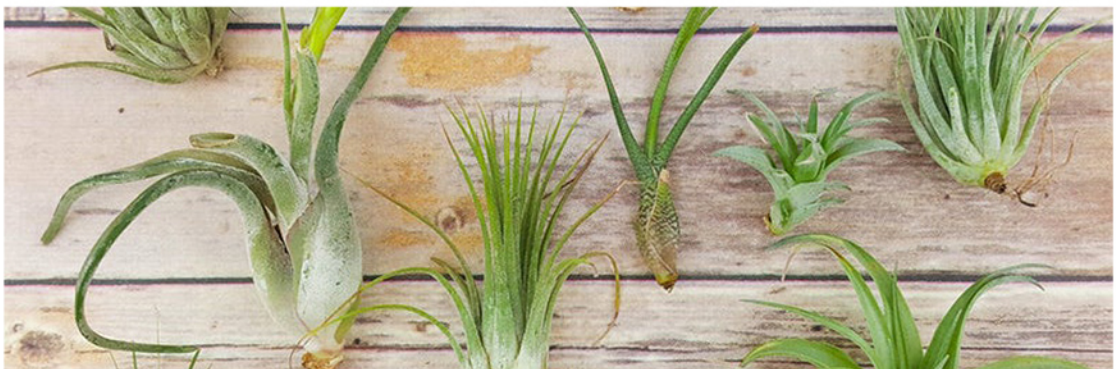




# Precedents and Research

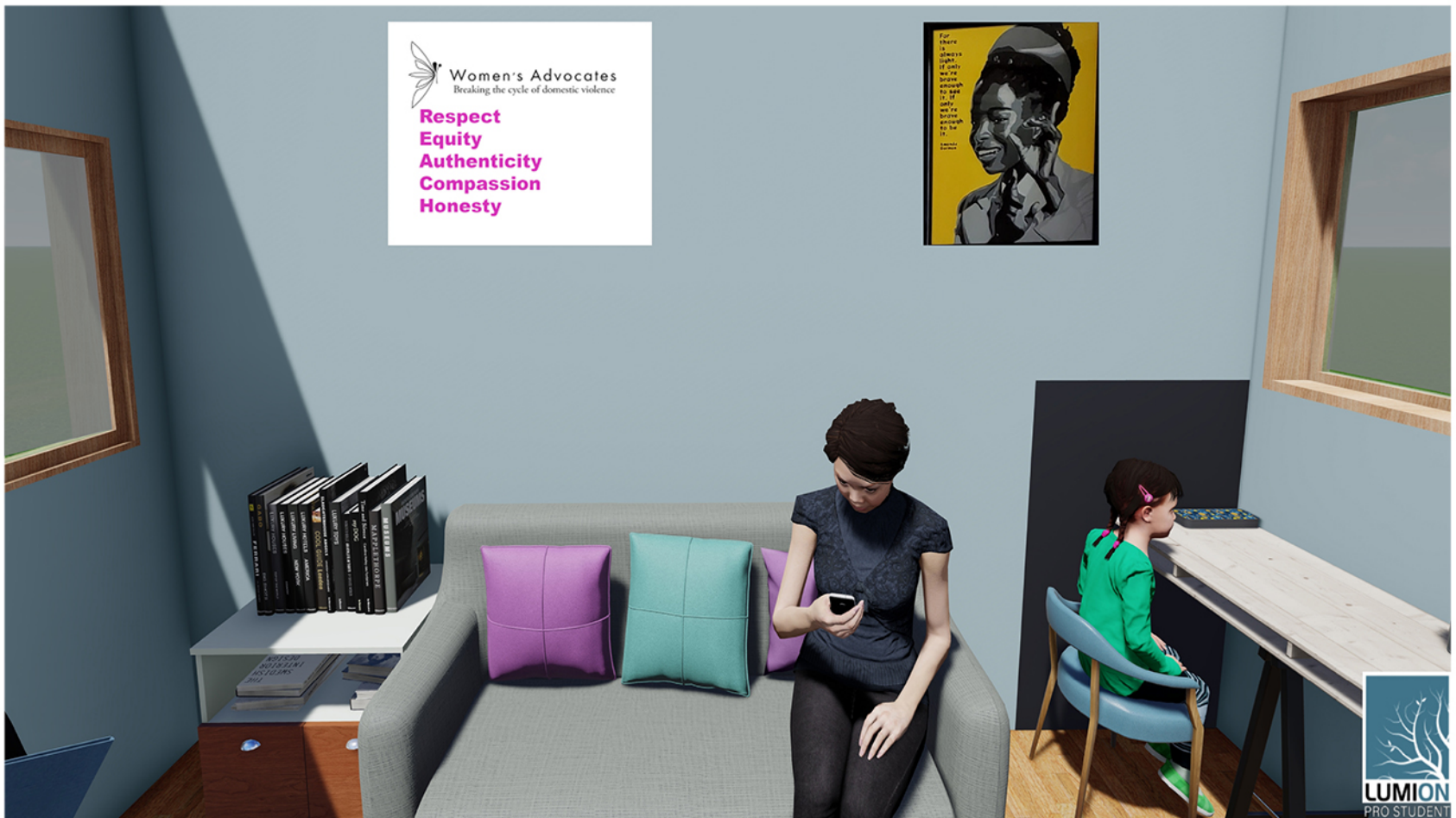
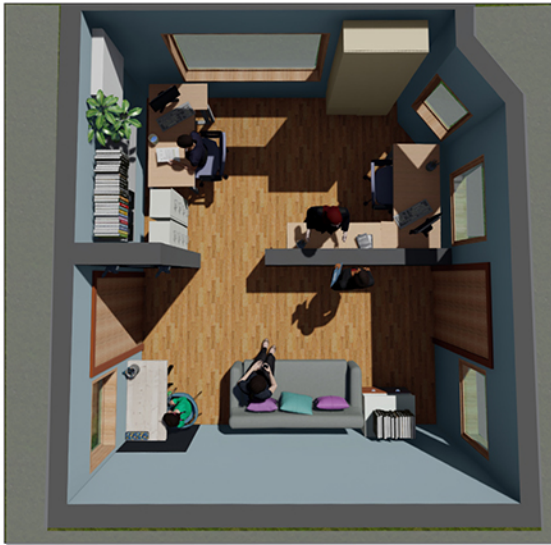
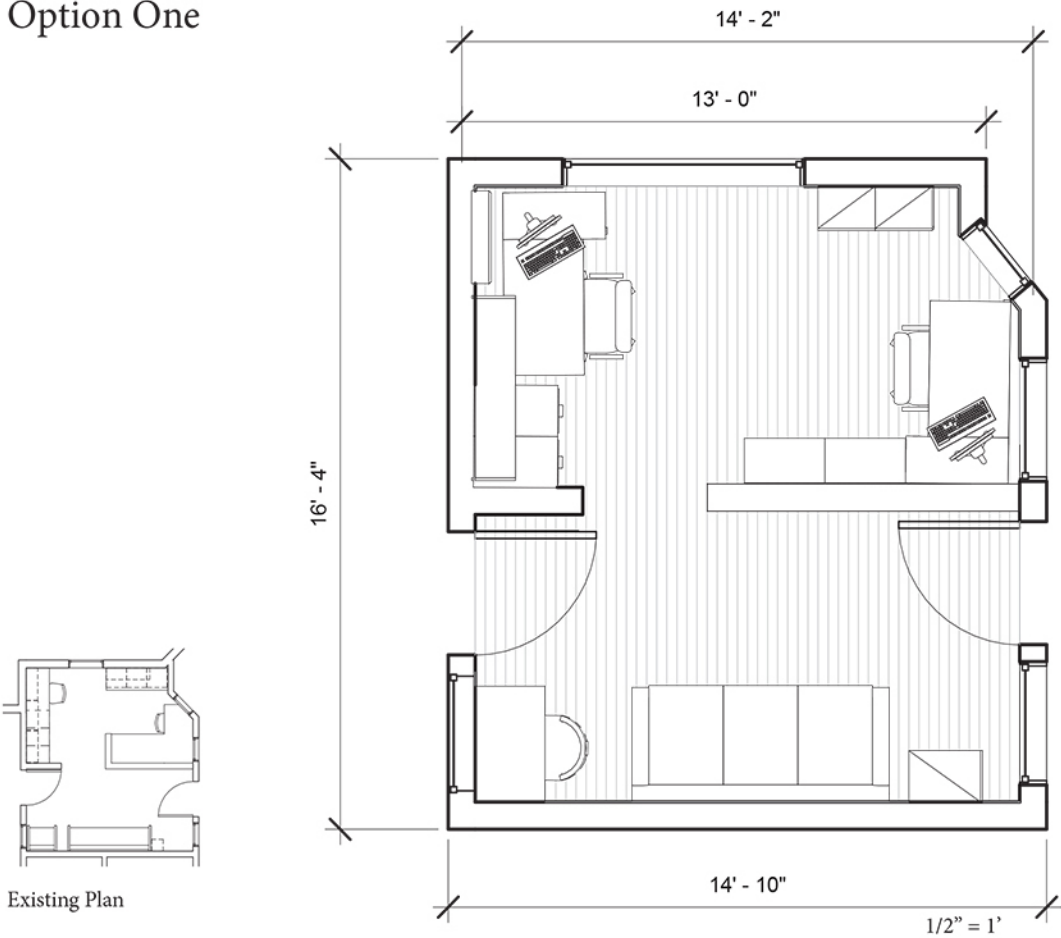
After speaking with the staff at Women's Advocate we compiled a list of research and precedent items including:

- precedent research for receptions spaces
- materials that are calming and warm
- trauma informed design
- radical hospitality
- way finding
- kids friendly spaces





Option One



Women's Advocates – Option 1 Description, Deino Wonosikou

The approach on this project was to make a difference without moving walls, trying to make an impact with as little as possible. Starting with research on Trauma Informed Design there were informative things I learnt from both team mates and the internet. I would like to list changes that were made and how we came to that approach.

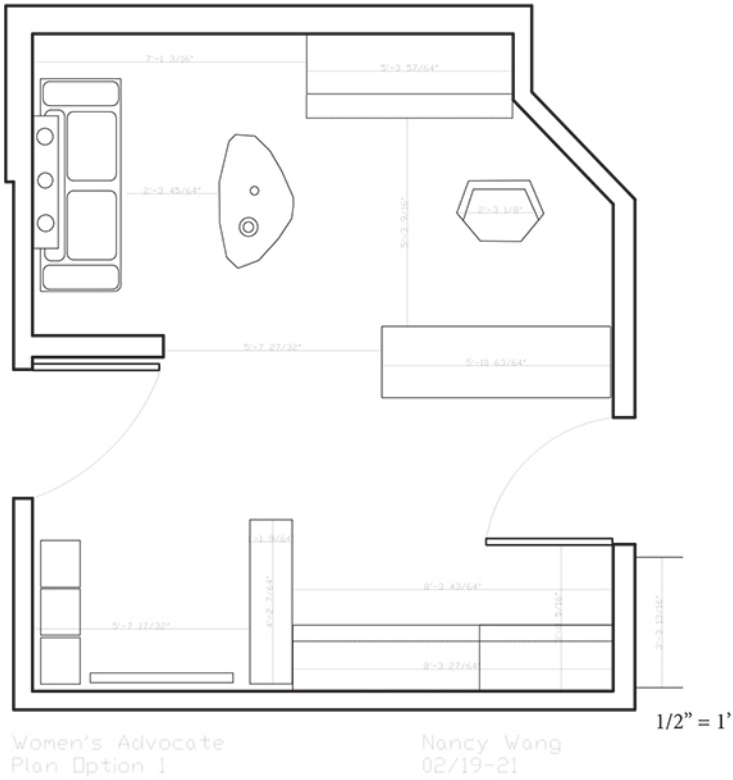
- 1) Bringing more of nature into the environment makes it feel more like a home, reduces stress, improves the mood and most of all brings comfort to occupants in the environment. Changing the glass from the bigger window to something clear brings nature and sunlight which further improves the mood of occupants especially on a sunny day.
- 2) Although some cabinets were removed and replaced by floating shelves this might be more of a challenge for space (which is addressed later on), but it gives occupants a sense of space around them.
- 3) Most of the storage was moved to the wall next to the biggest window. This was done to give employees more of a workspace so they can be comfortable too. Also putting into consideration that some of the files are confidential there is space underneath the floating shelf and above the desk where that could be stored.
- 4) The importance of a child should be a priority. Minimizing the seating space for adults allowed for a space specifically for children who could wait for their parents in the process.
- 5) Putting books in the reception where guests sit makes the space less confrontational and relaxed. Also putting into consideration that the type of book there should promote a sense of calm and peace.



Option Two



Existing Plan



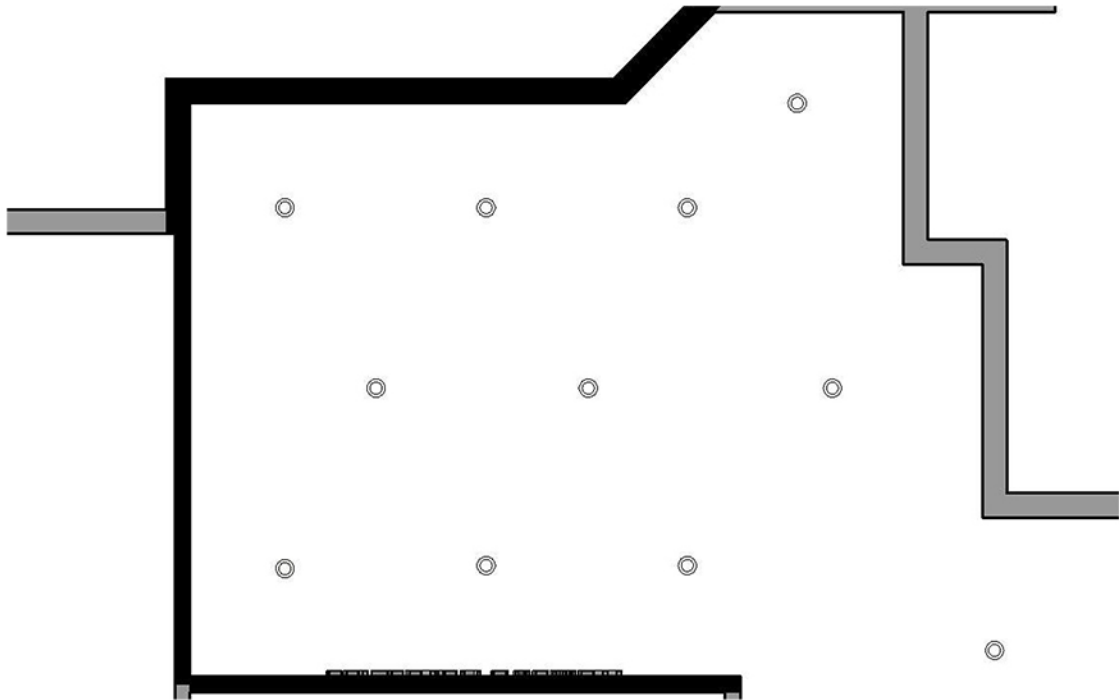
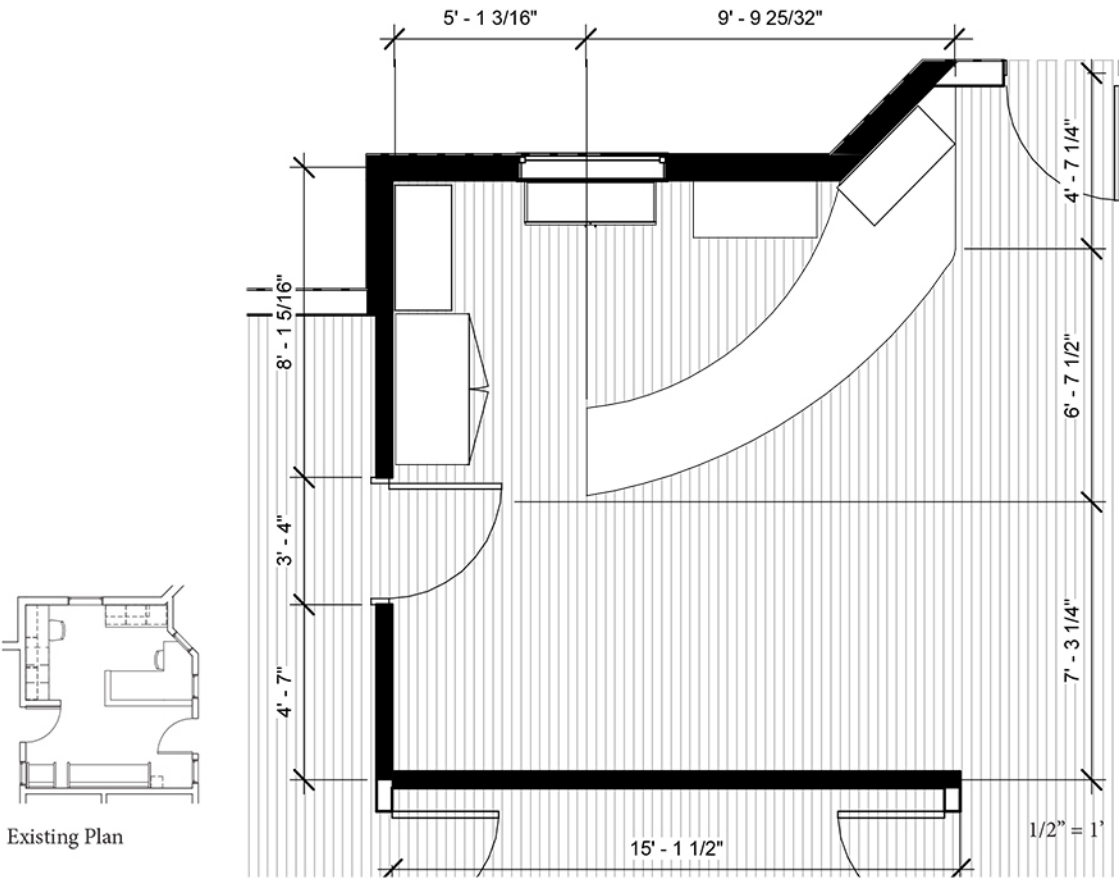
Women's Advocates – Option 2 Description, Nancy Wang

My plan consists of one options, and both of the goals are to make the space more cozy, convenient and client friendly. While designing the plans, I imagined myself being the client of women's advocates and thinking from their perspective. The biggest change I made is to move the sitting area to the storage area and created another storage office at where the sitting area was. When I picture myself being the client of Women's Advocate, I wouldn't want to wait in the hallway where people pass by all the time and constantly move my legs to allow people to walk by. By moving the sitting area, it creates a more private and comfortable space for clients to wait at, and there will be enough room to put tiny coffee tables so that clients can have some cookies and coffee.

The new storage office area definitely adds more storage space with the cubic shelves. This storage office is very close to the entrance so that the clients can come and grab their stuff from the window opening rather than walk all the way into the office and create more traffic flow. The shelves also act like a dividing wall to create a kids area where there are chalk walls and chalks. Both plans require minimal construction changes since it avoids deconstructing walls or removing doorways. The only big change that's required is to remove and make new storage cabinets that were originally in the storage office.



Option Three



Women's Advocates – Option 3 Description, Latoya Dennis

Having an open waiting area is a key way to make clients feel connected with the people who are working with them, giving them a sense of immersion into the space and culture itself. Welcome to the Women's Advocates front office redesign. With this open floor plan design, we wanted to create a spacious, efficient and welcoming environment to help everyone; women, children and staff, feel safe, happy, empowered and well-supported. This free flowing design is inspired by some of the goals of trauma-informed care:

Create a sense of safety - By creating clear sight lines and minimal barriers, our hope is to increase a sense of safety and decrease any perceived sense of crowding or being trapped. Lockable storage cabinets, filing cabinets and frosted glass is used to maintain privacy and security.

Invite conversation and trust - Intentionally incorporating elements of comfort and softness with plush couches, throw pillows, cool colors of blue and green and soft lighting, we want to create a feeling of calmness and comfortableness for the women and their children.

Create a sense of grounding - Adding touches of plant life can help reduce stress, improve cognitive function, improve our well-being and expedite healing by reconnecting us to nature.

Limit visual complexity - Changing the L-shaped receptionist desk into a curved shape helps create some flow and direction into the waiting area and opens up the space leading into the stairway and the hallway leading towards the living and dining rooms reducing any traffic jams.

Clear and consistent signage - This open floor plan also allows for effective wayfinding. Installing exit signs and adding directions on the walls/ceilings throughout the hallways can help guide families through the space.