

New plan could release mental health patients

Posted: Feb 16, 2012 3:54 AM CST

Updated: Feb 16, 2012 3:54 AM CST

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TUSCALOOSA - AL - Alabama's new Mental Health Consolidation plan could cause nearly 1000 people to lose their jobs. Under the plan, the new Bryce Hospital, now under construction in Tuscaloosa, and the Mary Starke Harper facility will be the only two in the state.

All others, including Taylor Hardin in Tuscaloosa, will close. Patients there would be transferred to the Department of Corrections. Other patients would be placed in "Community Care."

Tuscaloosa leaders, including the jail's medical director, say it creates a dangerous situation. They believe many patients, who should be institutionalized, could end up on the streets.



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