



Alabama Mental Health Department sets Searcy Hospital closing

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By



Alabama's Searcy Hospital currently houses 119 patients and has about 298 employees, state officials say.
(Special/Alabama Department of Mental Health)

MONTGOMERY, Alabama -- The Alabama Department of Mental Health has announced an Oct. 31 target date to close Searcy Hospital in Mount Vernon as part of an ongoing plan to try to treat more people in community programs.

Searcy Hospital, which has traditionally served people in 16 counties in the southern portion of the state, currently houses 119 patients and has about 298 employees, a department spokesman said.

Alabama Mental Health Commissioner Jim Reddoch announced the closing date in a meeting with Searcy employees this morning.

The department earlier this year announced plans to shutter two hospitals as the state tries to serve more patients with mental illnesses and mental disabilities to community-based care.

Greil Montgomery Psychiatric Hospital in Montgomery closed Aug. 31.

Voluntary transfers to other facilities are being offered to Searcy employees, according to the department.

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