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State may add psych beds after ADMH cuts

Birmingham Business Journal by Evan Belanger, Reporter

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Alabama health regulators are considering adding extra psychiatric beds to the state health plan to lessen the impact of steep budget cuts to the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

The move could accelerate the transfer of psychiatric patients from state-run facilities to private, community-based facilities and hospital psychiatric units.

Despite this month's vote to shore up the state's ailing general fund budget with a transfer of \$437 million from the Alabama Trust Fund, the mental health department is still projected to face a 10 percent funding cut in fiscal 2013, reducing its budget to \$104.4 million from \$116 million this ...

Evan Belanger covers health care, technology and more for the Birmingham Business Journal.