

Mental health issue is major concern for Houston County

Like 0 Tweet 0

3

03/24/2015 05:06 PM 03/24/2015 08:36 PM



A \$40 million cut out of the state budget for the Department of Mental Health has Houston County concerned.

Due to the lack of funding many mental hospitals closed around the state, leaving the counties to deal with the issues. Now, there is no where to turn for long term treatment.

"The substitute for that are regional mental health treatment facilities that are underfunded, inadequate funded to meet the requirement of the mentally ill in our communities," said Houston County Probate Judge Patrick Davenport.

Southeast Alabama Medical center sees many of the mentally ill through an out patient program. For those who need long term assistance there is only one place in the Wiregrass. New day regional care facility in Ozark has 13 available beds, but Davenport said those are hard to come by.

"Many of these individuals need longer term treatment than Spectrocare who manages and runs the New Day Regional Care Facility is capable of doing,"s Davenport said. "They have great staff and they're doing the best they can, but there is not the resources, there's not money and there's no treatment alternatives available."

Many of the people are put back on the streets with no where to go turning to homeless shelters when they really need care facilities.

Davenport said some people in the county jail also need to be treated for their mental illnesses.

But it all comes down to money, even State Representative Paul Lee agrees that's the problem. He said mental health has not received the attention it deserves.

"There is a problem and of course we don't have all the answers for everything, but the finances should not be an issue and I think you will see that addressed over this coming session, it should be addressed," said Lee.

Last year there were 750 commitment cases in Houston County, which was the fifth largest number in the state. Judge Davenport said he would like to see funding for group homes available for the mentally ill.

You May Like



- 1. [Classic golf mistakes amateurs make at the tee- PGA Pro explains!](#) a year ago [squaretosquaremethod.com](#) [Square to Square Method](#) [Square to Square Method](#) (sponsored)



- 2. [How Much Money Do You Really Get For A Reverse Mortgage](#) 23 hours ago [healthlifestylesonline.com](#) [Health Lifestyles Online](#) [HealthLifeStylesOnline.com](#) (sponsored)

