

State opening new Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama's mental health agency is opening a new Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa.

The new facility is the state's largest psychiatric hospital for adults. It has 268 beds and employs more than 500 people.

Gov. Robert Bentley and other leaders will tour the hospital and attend a grand opening on Wednesday.

The new hospital replaces the old white-domed Bryce Hospital located near the University of Alabama. The university purchased that property in 2010.

Bryce was considered a national model of humane care when it opened in 1861.

The hospital was the subject of a landmark federal court lawsuit in the 1970s that led to changes in the way mental patients are treated nationwide. The litigation created minimum standards for patient care that were copied across the country.

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