

Former Greil Hospital facility to house Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority

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The property that was the the site of the Greil Memorial Psychiatric Hospital before the state closed the facility last year is being repurposed to house the Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority, a nonprofit currently operating out of three locations.

When the Alabama Department of Mental Health closed the hospital in August, the property reverted to its original owner, the Greil Foundation.

Junie Pierce, chairman of the foundation, said the city of Montgomery helped facilitate a meeting between the foundation and the MAMHA.

The foundation deeded the property in December to the authority for \$1, Pierce said. The building was appraised at \$15 million.

“We had to take it back, which was a huge burden because we had to insure it, maintain it and provide security,” Pierce said. “This was a perfect match for them.”

The property was deeded to the state in the 1970s, when it first opened as a tuberculosis sanatorium, Pierce said.

“It would have been a terrible blight sitting up on that hill vacant, with people breaking in and stealing stuff,” Pierce said. “It’s a real asset now. The building was in great shape. They had done all kinds of improvements to the building.”

The 79,000-square-foot facility soon will house the Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority’s three offices under one roof: administration, children’s services and adult services. Executive Director Henry Parker said the departments presently are housed in separate facilities at 101, 111 and 112 Coliseum Blvd.

The administration offices already have been moved to the building. Parker said the rest of the building is being prepared for the other two departments to move in within the next few months.

“When this became available, it was already configured to what we needed,” Parker said.

Parker said the organization is a “safety-net” facility for Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore and Lowndes counties. About 200 patients visit the facility on a daily basis, Parker said, and there are a total of 3,700 to 4,000 adult patients from Montgomery County alone.

Parker said the organization will spend some money renovating the building, purchasing lawn-care equipment and hiring new staff, but he hopes to save about \$1,000 per month on utilities. He said the building features a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system

Parker said the old administrative building is being leased to the Lighthouse Counseling Center. When the rest of the operation moves into the Greil building, the authority will put the two properties up for lease or sale.

“It’ll be nicer,” Parker said. “It’ll be a place where we have everything we need, and the consumers have

everything they need.”