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University of Alabama Halts Hospital Construction

By The Tuscaloosa News

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The Tuscaloosa News reports (<http://bit.ly/yHtAey>) that Kenny Bush, a spokesman for the general contractor building the hospital, confirmed Friday that university officials had ordered that all work be suspended.

The new hospital was ordered to replace 151-year-old Bryce Hospital, which treats mental illnesses. However, last month state Mental Health Commissioner Zelia Baugh announced the new hospital will eventually be used to house court-committed criminal defendants.

State Rep. Chris England, D-Tuscaloosa, says the university may be worried about having criminal defendants hospitalized close to campus. But university and state officials aren't commenting on whether that's why construction was stopped.

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