

# **Official: MHCNCA plans to remain open at least 1,000 years**

**Posted: Thursday, February 5, 2015 2:24 pm**

The Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama was assuring clients Thursday it is not closing and has no plan to do so.

An official for the Decatur-based not-for-profit organization that serves residents in Limestone, Morgan and Lawrence counties said Thursday the MHCNCA expects to be open for the next 1,000 years.

Fear over Wednesday's announcement that Alabama Psychiatric Services would close its 18 private offices statewide on Feb. 13 and the recent announcement that the state-run North Alabama Regional Hospital would be closing prompted rumors that the MHCNCA was closing. Not so, said Bill Giguere, foundation development officer for the MHCNCA.

"To paraphrase an often misquoted statement from Mark Twain, 'Reports of the Mental Health Center's closure are greatly exaggerated,'" Giguere said. "In fact, the idea that the Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama is in any danger of closing is completely without basis... While 1,000 years may be a bit of an optimistic statement, the Mental Health Center has been in continuous operation since 1967. Yes, cuts in funding from the Alabama Department of Mental Health, closure of three state hospitals and other events have impacted virtually all mental-health providers in our state. However, as with other changes that have occurred over the past 47 years, the Mental Health Center will adapt, adjust and reinvent itself to meet the mental health needs of the community. The Mental Health Center is the oldest, most experienced, and largest psychiatric care provider in North Central Alabama. We are open for business."

Clients and other residents in those counties are urged to visit the MHCNCA website at [www.mhcnca.org](http://www.mhcnca.org) to learn more about the center.