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Tyner plans petition drive against mental health plan

Staff report

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TUSCALOOSA | City Councilman Kip Tyner said he's been "slammed" with calls from constituents upset about proposed changes in the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

Tyner said he will host a petition drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Piggly Wiggly, 2731 University Blvd. E., in Alberta to gather signatures from residents who are against the proposed changes.

Mental Health Commissioner Zelia Baugh plans to close four of the state's six mental health hospitals, lay off 948 mental health department employees and move about 470 patients to community-based care as the department deals with steep budget cuts.

Tyner said the drive will also feature voter registration, information about how to contact the Tuscaloosa County Board of Registrars and change-of-address forms to help those displaced by the tornado.



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