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Mental health petition drive continues today

Staff report

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TUSCALOOSA | City Councilman Kip Tyner will host a petition drive to gather public support in opposing the proposed changes within the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

The drive will take place today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at Piggly Wiggly, 2731 University Blvd. E., in Alberta to gather signatures from residents who are against the proposed changes.

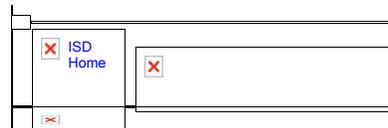
Tyner said 546 residents signed the petition last week.

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 also will have membership applications for the local chapter of the NAACP, which is reforming after about five years of inactivity.

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