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Mental Health Rally Held at Alabama State House

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By CBS 8 News
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Alabama is expected to shut down almost all of its mental health hospitals by next spring in order to save money.

Gov. Robert Bentley is proposing to cut nearly \$105 million from the Department of Mental Health in order to balance the General Fund budget. That could put nearly 1,000 people out of work.

Hundreds of mental health advocates and patients rallied at the State House to raise awareness about the future of their programs.

The Department of Mental Health plans on cutting four out of six hospitals, instead of cutting community services.

The federal government will also double every dollar spent on community programs.

The Department of Mental Health presented its plan to state lawmakers, but no decisions have been made.