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# **Mental Health Advocates Rally State House, Ask Lawmakers for More Money**

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By WNCN  
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Alabama is expected to shut down almost all of its mental health hospitals by next spring.

That means nearly a thousand people could be without jobs.

Mental health patients are primarily covered by state dollars so Governor Robert Bentley is proposing to cut nearly \$105 million from the department of mental health to balance the budget.

Hundreds of mental health advocates and patients rallied around the State House in response.

The proposed 2013 budget forced the department of mental health to plan on cutting four out of six hospitals, instead of cutting community services.

“You don't always recognize these people; they're the people that you live with next door, the people in your town. They don't walk around with a sign saying I have a mental illness,” said Nancy Jester, Cullman Resident.

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