



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of State Operated Health Facilities

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Transferring Beds from State Psychiatric Hospitals to Community

The North Carolina State Medical Facilities Plan allows for the transfer of psychiatric beds from State hospitals to community hospitals. Some State hospitals have more certified beds than they can operate due to space restrictions and other requirements. Meanwhile, many local hospitals have sought additional bed space to better serve their communities. By shifting beds from State hospitals to community hospitals, NC DHHS prioritizes community-based care, increases access, and promotes a recovery-oriented system of care. The State has shifted over 400 certified, but not operational, psychiatric beds from Dorothea Dix, Cherry and Broughton hospitals in the past ten years. Since these beds were not operational, and therefore not being utilized to serve patients, distributing these certified psychiatric beds to hospitals in communities across the state increases access to in-patient psychiatric services.

The most recent beds to be transferred were moved from Broughton Hospital to community hospitals around the State in the Summer of 2019. For this transfer, the Department went through a rigorous process to determine where these beds would go. To determine appropriate bed distribution, the Department considered multiple data points such as existing patient-population in the hospital's local community, referral patterns to and wait times for State hospital beds. Allotments of psychiatric beds were made as follows:

- 20 adult beds Maria Parham Hospital, in Henderson;
- 10 adult beds to Brynn Marr Behavioral Healthcare System, in Jacksonville;
- 10 adult beds to Wake forest Baptist Health - High Point Medical Center, in High Point;
- 10 child and adolescent beds to Vidant Health, in Greenville;
- 6 adult beds to Johnston Health, in Smithfield;
- 10 adult beds to Swain Community Hospital, in Bryson City;
- 50 adult beds to Wake Med Hospital, in Raleigh;
- 18 adult beds serving individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and intellectual and developmental needs to Affinity Living Group, in Hickory.

The Department is committed to ensuring North Carolinians get access to the right services, at the right place and at the right time. Increasing community-based capacity supports this goal. By serving an individual in the community, the hospital provides care closer to home, family, friends, and community service providers, providing more comfort and ease in transitional care. Building more local capacity also reserves the state hospitals' resources for individuals whose needs require more intensive and/or longer-term hospitalization or specialty services that only state hospitals can provide. The Division's psychiatric hospitals provide comprehensive inpatient mental health services to people with psychiatric illness who cannot be safely treated at a lower level of care. Psychiatric treatment at the State hospitals includes: medication, psychosocial rehabilitation, counseling, educational sessions, group therapy, recreation therapy, work therapy, diet and occupational therapy. These facilities are accredited by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and are certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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The Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities oversees and manages 14 State operated healthcare facilities that treat adults and children with mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance use disorders and neuro-medical needs.

For more information about NC health care facilities, please visit:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dsohf>