

PETITION

(3 minute read)

There is no long term Inpatient Treatment and Recovery Facility in North Alabama for those suffering from Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and, or Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Because of this, SMI and SUD individuals are caught in a seemingly endless cycle of:

ER/Hospital, Short Term Treatment Facility, Streets, Jail, Streets, and
the cycle repeats in one order or another.

This endless “pass on and out” cycle impacts not only those suffering from SMI, SUD, and their families, it also puts a major social and economic burden on our **communities, law enforcement, public safety, jails, streets, our mental health providers, ERs, hospitals, first responders, courts and increases our homeless populations.**

It is also very costly for the sixteen (16) counties that make up North Alabama, whose jails continue to be the largest inpatient facilities for SMI and SUD individuals.

In Madison County alone, of a total average jail population of 1127, 24% or 270 inmates are currently on some level of mental health protocol, and are prescribed medication. The medication cost at this level is \$4400.00 per month. These medication costs, plus housing, food, etc. for these 270 individuals totals a whopping \$14,850.00 per day, \$445,500.00 per month and \$5,420,250.00 annually. Our law enforcement officers and our jails should not be forced to be the largest inpatient providers of treatment for SMI and SUD individuals.

Currently all longterm inpatient beds are in Tuscaloosa:

- Taylor Harden 140 beds Tuscaloosa
- Bryce 268 beds Tuscaloosa
- Mary Harper (Geriatric) 126 beds Tuscaloosa

Total = 534 beds

534 beds for a state population of over five million people. Approximately 100 beds per million people, all in Tuscaloosa.

Therefore, we the undersigned of this Petition, call on our Alabama State Legislators, our Governor, and the Alabama Department of Mental Health to take immediate action to establish a long term inpatient facility in North Alabama for treating and rehabilitating those suffering serious mental illness (SMI) and, or, substance use disorder (SUD).

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