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TOP STORY

Hospital gets permission to move psychiatric units

By Robert Palmer Staff Writer Oct 2, 2017 Updated 21 hrs ago

MUSCLE SHOALS — Shoals Hospital received formal notice from the state today that it may move 20 psychiatric beds to its campus.

The Alabama Health Planning and Development Agency granted a certificate need to relocate the 20 beds currently at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in Florence. Shoals and ECM are owned by RegionalCare Hospital Partners.

"In the process, we will redesign our interior to accommodate them," said Michelle Eubanks, Shoals Hospital community relations director. Shoals has 30 in-patient adult psychiatric beds.

Eubanks said by consolidating the beds, better services can be offered by its geriatric program, and make for more streamlined processes for mental health officers in Colbert and Lauderdale counties.

The cost of modifying the hospital for the expanded psychiatric unit is almost \$9.8 million. Eubanks said the work could begin this autumn, with a target completion date of the end of the second quarter of 2018.

RegionalCare is building a 280-bed hospital in Florence that will replace ECM.

Robert Palmer may be reached at 256-740-5720, or robert.palmer@TimesDaily.com. Follow on Twitter @TD_RobertPalmer.