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64-bed psychiatric hospital under construction in Kalamazoo County

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Construction has started at the four-acre site of a proposed 64-bed psychiatric hospital at 5802 S. Ninth St. in Texas Township. A health-care company based in South Bend is building the facility, which is expected to open in summer 2023.

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By [Julie Mack | special to MLive](#)

KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MI — A South Bend health-care company is constructing a 64-bed psychiatric hospital in Texas Township.

[NeuroPsychiatric Hospitals](#) recently broke ground on the facility, which is expected to open in summer 2023, company officials said.

The project is located at 5802 S. Ninth St., a four-acre site just north of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's main campus and adjacent to The Groves, KVCC's education business technology park.

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The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has approved the creation of 31 psychiatric beds for the general adult population and 33 psychiatric beds specifically for persons with developmental disabilities. The facility will be limited to inpatient services for acute, short-term psychiatric care.



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Plans call for a single-story building with 42,600 square feet of space. It will have three private and 14 semi-private rooms for the general adult population, and five private and 14 semi-private rooms in a separate unit for developmentally disabled adults.

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Total cost of construction will be \$37.5 million, according to the proposals filed with MDHHS in 2019. Once it opens, the facility is expected to employ about 150 to 200 people, said Liz Mitchell, NeuroPsychiatric Hospitals vice president of marketing.

NeuroPsychiatric Hospitals currently operates five hospitals in Indiana, two in Arizona and one in Texas, said Dee Nkosi, associate director of business development. This will be the company's first facility in Michigan, she said, adding that almost 30% of current referrals to their Indiana facilities come from Michigan.

“We definitely serve all types of patients, including those with dual diagnoses and patients that have psychiatric issues while detoxing,” Nkosi said. “We serve the geriatric population, the young adult population. But our specialty and our sweet spot is people with medical complexities,” such as psychiatric patients who have a feeding tube or have had a tracheostomy.

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“We really excel at medical complexities because we have full-time internal medicine doctors on staff as well as psychiatrists,” Mitchell said “That’s the difference for our hospital system.”

But Mitchell added that facility also will serve psychiatric patients without other health issues, such as adults who have attempted or are considering suicide.

It’s anticipated that most young adult patients will be put on a “rapid stabilization track that is usually a five- to seven-day stay, although each case is individualized, so some stays could be shorter and some could be longer,” Nkosi said. Older patients may stay as long as two weeks. The maximum stay would be 30 days.

“It’s very specialized and individualized care, according to the patients’ needs,” Nkosi said.

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Patients would have access to a psychiatrist and an internist to assess the need for psychotropic medication or a change in medication. The program also includes daily individual and/or group therapy, as well as physical, occupational and pet therapy, Mitchell said.

Costs would be covered by patients’ health insurance and NeuroPsychiatric Hospitals also is setting up contracts with community mental health agencies in Michigan counties, who contract for inpatient care for their clientele, which is typically adults with severe mental illness. NeuroPsychiatric Hospitals already has contracts with the CMHs that serve Kalamazoo, Berrien, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Barry, Eaton, Ingham, Clinton, Montcalm, Isabella, Mecosta and Macomb counties, Nkosi said.

The NeuroPsychiatric facility is one of two psychiatric facilities currently under development in southwest Michigan.


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Bronson Healthcare and Acadia Healthcare Co. recently formed a joint venture to build a 96-bed inpatient behavioral health facility in Battle Creek. That facility, which also is expected to open next summer, will have 48 beds for the general adult population, 24 beds for geriatric patients and 24 for developmentally disabled persons.

The 48 beds for the general population will replace the 48 beds at Bronson's inpatient psychiatric unit at the Fieldstone Center in Battle Creek. Fieldstone's inpatient unit will close once the new facility opens.

The Bronson and NeuroPsychiatric Hospitals projects will help address a longstanding shortage of inpatient psychiatric beds in southwest Michigan and across the state. Currently, people experiencing a mental-health crisis can wait days or even weeks for a private inpatient psychiatric bed, and the wait can be three to six months for a bed at the state-run Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital.

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