



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Cunningham,
lauren.cunningham@dbhds.virginia.gov

**Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Announces
Start of Process to Close Hiram W. Davis Medical Center**

*Fifty-year-old facility offering acute medical, skilled nursing, and
long-term care services will close no later than end of 2027*

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) announced today that they are beginning the process of closing Hiram W. Davis Medical Center (HDMC) in Petersburg. HDMC has provided acute medical, skilled nursing, and long-term care services primarily to Virginians in other DBHDS facilities who need medical care.

HDMC was built in 1974 as a 94-bed facility and, as of August 6, 2024, had 46 patients. HDMC has undergone no major renovations in its history and all of its building systems are nearing, or have exceeded, the end of their estimated life. The building design does not allow for phased renovations, meaning that staff and residents would need to vacate the building for up to 24 months to accomplish any significant and costly repairs.

“For fifty years, Hiram Davis Medical Center has provided quality care and services to Virginians,” said **DBHDS Commissioner, Nelson Smith**. “Given its current state, which requires extensive repairs and renovations to maintain the highest level of care, closing the center is the best option. I want to assure Virginians that great care will be taken in preparation of this closure. We will work with families on the available discharge options that meet their loved one’s needs and preferences and maintain open communication with the skilled staff of HDMC about employment at other DBHDS facilities. The health, safety, and well-being of the patients and staff of HDMC remains our top priority.”

“Given the complex medical needs of those at HDMC, it is prudent to begin the planning process now and make careful, solicitous decisions for individuals’ new homes instead of risking a potential system failure and emergency placements,” said **DBHDS Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Alexis Ablasca**. “We understand closing HDMC will have an impact on those we serve, staff, the local community, and our larger system of services. As a result, the process of closing HDMC will be gradual. We will help individuals move into safe placements of their choice and ensure that their needs are appropriately met.”

Virginia Code § [37.2-316](#) requires the DBHDS commissioner to establish a state and community consensus and planning team with specific requirements for membership to ensure adequate community capacity is available prior to closure and to address any issues with transitions of patients and staff. The facility will close no later than the end of calendar year 2027.

###

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) seeks to promote dignity, choice, recovery, and the highest possible level of participation in work, relationships, and all aspects of community life for individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities or substance-use disorders. DBHDS operates 12 state facilities and partners with 40 locally-run community services boards and hundreds of private providers statewide. For more information, please visit www.dbhds.virginia.gov, and find DBHDS on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).