

Hiram Davis Medical Center

Overview and Background

Hiram Davis Medical Center (HDMC) was built in 1974 as a 94-bed facility on the Central State Hospital campus and as of September 1, 2024, had 164 full-time staff. HDMC is accredited by the Joint Commission as a Hospital and Nursing Care Center, providing acute medical, skilled nursing, and long-term care services. The HDMC building is over 50 years old and, as a result, has serious infrastructure issues and antiquated systems, but the design of the facility does not allow for phased renovations. **If there were to be a system failure, patients and staff would be required to vacate HDMC for up to two years.**

Due to the numerous facility issues, Hiram Davis began the process of closure in 2024, with a goal for the facility to be fully closed no later than December 2027. By beginning the planning process now, DBHDS, the community, and stakeholders can make careful decisions together for individuals' new homes, instead of allowing a system failure that would require emergency placements.

Issues

Major building systems at HDMC are at the end of their useful life. For years, DBHDS has been repairing problems, to the fullest extent possible, as they arise. However, major building renovations have not been possible due to the overwhelming list of issues below:

- Legionella detection with unsuccessful resolution since 2021
- HVAC system is well beyond its predicted useful life
- Plumbing system is in an advanced stage of deterioration
- A sewage spillage from a ceiling waste pipe failure
- Bathrooms do not comply with standards
- Electrical system is at the end of its useful life and is no longer code compliant
- Elevators are well beyond useful service life

Unfortunately, making extensive renovations and repairs to these system failures will trigger new Code requirements for recertification of the facility. To renovate HDMC at this length would cost \$94 million. If DBHDS were to completely rebuild HDMC, the cost would be \$145 million.

Closure Process, Planning Team, and Initiatives to Support Patients, Families, and Staff

Closure will be a gradual process of **one to two years** to ensure individuals are moved safely into placements that they and their families choose and that are appropriate for their needs. HDMC will be staffed until after all patients successfully transition to their new homes. Throughout the closure process, DBHDS Human Resources will be working with HDMC staff to answer any questions they may have and explore options available to them at neighboring Central State Hospital (which will soon have a brand-new building) and other DBHDS facilities. HDMC and DBHDS Central Office staff have been holding regular meetings with families of

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patients to keep them informed and to discuss their family member's essential support needs and preferences. At these meetings, staff also let them know they have the right to authorize DBHDS to start exploring for alternative placements that meet their loved one's needs and preferences.

Virginia Code [§37.2-316](#) requires DBHDS to establish a state and community planning and consensus team when any restructuring involves an existing state hospital. The [HDMC Planning Team](#) and its three subcommittees began holding public meetings in the fall of 2024 to develop a closure plan, which will then be submitted for approval to the Governor and the General Assembly. The planning team process helps to ensure comprehensive input from all stakeholders, with focuses on community education, implementation of community services, staffing transition strategies, and discharge plans. Importantly, this process also ensures consideration for sustainability, funding, and resolution of concerns related to the closure of the hospital.

Throughout the closure process, DBHDS will put a **focus on special hospitalization options for individuals from state behavioral health hospitals, training centers, and the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR)**. DBHDS will identify alternative placements for state facility patients who would otherwise be admitted to HDMC and look at community options available for stabilization and rehabilitation to support these populations.

The agency is also focused on community residential placement options for individuals with a serious mental illness, dementia, or other neurocognitive disorder. Some patients may need services in a private facility or specialized mental health group home that provides medical support. DBHDS contracts with agencies operating specialized group homes and memory care facilities with programs to provide residential services to individuals with these diagnoses. DBHDS will continue to provide behavioral support for individuals living in private nursing facilities.

A link to the final HDMC Closure Plan can be found [here](#).

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