

Teaming Up to Advance Behavioral Health for Eastern North Carolina



ECU Health and Acadia Healthcare announced plans to build a state-of-the-art, 144-bed behavioral health hospital in the medical district of Greenville, N.C., that will open in spring 2025. This facility will include 24 inpatient behavioral health beds dedicated to serving the mental health needs of children and adolescents – the only such beds within 75 miles of Greenville.

Located within five minutes of ECU Health Medical Center (formerly Vidant Medical Center), the new hospital would be a center of excellence, providing North Carolinians with important access to behavioral health treatment from specialized clinical teams in a carefully designed environment.



Meeting Eastern North Carolina's Behavioral Health Needs

Nearly 100 years ago, Pitt Community Hospital (now ECU Health Medical Center) was established and has continued to serve an important role as eastern North Carolina's leader in public health. Given the profound challenges facing our state in terms of access to quality behavioral health care, especially in rural communities, there is a tremendous need for innovative strategies to address these challenges.

Why This Must Be a Priority

Through this potential partnership, ECU Health is reinforcing its commitment to stopping the stigma against people with mental illness. Prior to the pandemic, nearly one in five North Carolinians experienced a mental illness. In the last two years, data* indicates a growing trend of depression and anxiety symptoms.

National Trends having a profound effect in our state:



National Council for Mental Wellbeing found a 52% increase in demand for behavioral health services

26%

of Americans 18 and older suffer from a diagnosable mental illness each year



Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in people between the ages of 10 and 34



The latest CDC research shows symptoms of anxiety and depression have risen by three and four times over the past two years

In 2021, Mental Health America ranked North Carolina:

42nd in adults with any mental illness reporting an unmet need

44th in overall access to behavioral care services for adults and youths

45th in youths having a higher prevalence of mental illness and a lower rate of access to care



More than **700** children from eastern North Carolina arrive each year at an ECU Health Emergency Department with a primary psychiatric diagnosis.

*Mental Health America.
www.mhanational.org/issues/ranking-states#prevalence_mi. Accessed 14 Apr. 2022.

About Acadia Healthcare

Acadia is the nation's largest standalone behavioral health company in the U.S., solely dedicated to the advancement and delivery of behavioral health services. They currently operate a network of more than 238 behavioral health care facilities in 40 states and Puerto Rico and have a track record of successful partnerships with premier health systems across the country.

Through this partnership with Acadia, a recognized national leader in behavioral health, ECU Health will:

- Deepen our level of expertise
- Implement best practices
- Increase the number of services we provide
- Expand our continuum of care
- Enhance learning opportunities for ECU's Brody School of Medicine, College of Nursing and College of Allied Health Sciences students and residents

What You Can Expect Next

With this announcement, our organizations will work together to move forward with this partnership. Pending standard state and regulatory approvals, construction is expected to begin in 2023.

In the meantime, nothing will change about how or where we are serving patients today. We maintain our commitment to providing high-quality behavioral care to every patient and community who needs us.



Learn more at
ENCBehavioralHealth.org.