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State to build psychiatric hospital in Cleveland's Midtown

The Ohio Department of Mental Health, in collaboration with the City of Cleveland, has identified a site for its new regional psychiatric hospital on the Midtown Health Line in the vicinity of Euclid Avenue and East 59th Street. After the state-city agreement is finalized, design and construction will take up to four years.

"The City of Cleveland has been instrumental in helping the state determine the best site for this hospital and we are very grateful for their continued support of this project," said Governor Ted Strickland. "Through this partnership we will be able to provide improved services to patients and offer easy access for family and friends visiting the facility."

When opened, the new hospital will care for patients currently receiving services at the two aging facilities of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, the 86-year-old 10-story tower in Cleveland and the multiple buildings located in Northfield. The size of the new hospital will accommodate a comparable number of patients as are currently served in the two locations combined. The Midtown site will be well-served by public transportation.

"Moving forward with this project is very positive news. Citizens of Northeast Ohio will benefit through continued quality care in a clinically modern psychiatric hospital," said ODMH Director Sandra Stephenson. "This consolidated facility will substantially benefit the department with long-term cost savings through efficiencies in maintenance and overhead. Additionally, the hospital will be a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified green building, using strategies aimed at improving energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality and stewardship of our resources."

The state will pay \$150,000 per acre for 14 acres that are "shovel-ready." The City of Cleveland will garner tax revenue and jobs will be created or maintained in Northeast Ohio.

"I am pleased that the State of Ohio is pursuing this site in the City of Cleveland for a consolidated state-of-the-art regional facility. We will continue to work with the state toward the fulfillment of this goal," said Mayor Frank G. Jackson.

Funding for the hospital was appropriated in previous budget cycles through the state's capital spending plan. The process to find a site that was appropriate and feasible involved the collaboration of many people, including the Mayor's office, Cuyahoga County Commissioners, Northeast Ohio legislators and other local and state officials.