



Ohio Department of Mental Health

Press Release

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Psychiatric Provider to Purchase Cambridge Hospital

Columbus, Ohio - Governor Ted Strickland and officials at the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), and leaders from Oglethorpe Inc., announced today Oglethorpe's purchase of Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare Cambridge Campus, the recently closed psychiatric hospital campus in Guernsey County.

"Oglethorpe's purchase of the Cambridge hospital property is a perfect example of how the state, local communities and private businesses can partner together for the common benefit of all," Strickland said.

Oglethorpe Inc., a private, Tampa-based behavioral healthcare corporation, plans to phase in operation of a 48-bed in-patient psychiatric hospital and a 16-bed substance abuse treatment facility on the 40-acre Cambridge campus previously operated by the state. Oglethorpe Inc. already owns one facility in Gahanna, Ohio.

"I am pleased that this Cambridge hospital property will continue to be used in a similar way - to meet the needs of people," said ODMH Director Sandra Stephenson. "I know that the Cambridge campus closure was a great loss to the community - in jobs and in treatment options. Oglethorpe will begin to fill that void by providing local jobs and initiating in-patient psychiatric care in this part of the state. Rep. Jennifer Garrison, county mental health board staff and other community leaders were of great support as we sought a replacement that would benefit the community. Their collaboration was instrumental in making this happen."

As part of cost-cutting measures for the 2008-2009 biennial budget, the state consolidated its two Appalachian regional psychiatric hospitals (located in Athens and Cambridge) into one at its Athens location. The state increased the staffing and bed capacity in Athens and closed the Cambridge facility on June 30 of this year.

ODMH has been considering alternative uses for its Cambridge property since the hospital consolidation and closure were announced. Discussions among ODMH, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, and Oglethorpe Inc. began in the Spring and have culminated in a purchase agreement that allows for immediate possession of three buildings: Oldham, Fletcher and Keller. Oglethorpe has already begun advertising locally to fill jobs.

"We are looking forward to working with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the local communities in opening the new Cambridge Behavioral Hospital," said Jim O'Shea, Oglethorpe's chief operating officer.