



AltaPointe wins vote against additional psychiatric beds in Mobile County

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on February 13, 2014 at 12:03 PM, updated February 13, 2014 at 2:04 PM

MOBILE, Alabama-- Mobile-based mental health company AltaPointe received the vote that they wanted on Friday in Montgomery in a request for a rule change to the state health plan.



Out-of-state company Strategic Behavioral Health requested a rule change to allow 72 additional inpatient psychiatric beds in Mobile County.

In response, AltaPointe filed formal opposition to the Tennessee-based company's proposal due to a lack of need.

Currently, there are 184 psychiatric beds in the Mobile region with an occupancy rate of 47.7 percent.

"Our position all along has been that there's no need for additional beds in Mobile County and that allowing these beds could have a detrimental impact on a system that is currently serving the needs of mental health patients in this region," said Tuerk Schlesinger, CEO of AltaPointe.

Joining Schlesinger and other AltaPointe employees in opposition to the application before the SHCC today was Department of Mental Health Commissioner, Jim Reddoch; Probate Judge of Baldwin County, Tim Russell; Administrator at Children's & Women's Hospital at the University of South Alabama, Owen Bailey; among many others.

Dr. Sandra Parker, AltaPointe's Chief Medical Officer and Vice-Chair of Psychiatry at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine provided the SHCC members with a thorough overview of the current mental health system in place in Mobile County and the lack of need for additional beds.

"The system we now have in place does an excellent job of meeting the needs of these psychiatric patients. I believe Friday's unanimous vote by the SHCC members affirmed that for us, and we are grateful," Parker said.

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