

Mental health practice opening following shutter of Alabama Psychiatric Services

Drew Taylor, Montgomery Advertiser 4:26 p.m. CDT March 12, 2015



(Photo: Drew Taylor/Advertiser)

A month after the Alabama Psychiatric Services shut down statewide, a Montgomery psychiatrist is working to continue serving the patients the group treated.

Dr. Babatunde Abolade, who worked at the privately-owned APS for 10 years before it shuttered in February, is one of several former APS doctors that will start a new practice, Montgomery Area Psychiatric Services, on March 30 at 2430 Fairlane Drive.

“I was happy at APS,” he said. “It was disappointing when we closed our doors, but at the same time, I quickly realized that it was an opportunity to start a practice that allows me to continue to see those patients and to

continue to deliver the same level of care they had.”

The new practice will deal with a variety of mental illness, such as assessment, diagnosis and treatment. Doctors that will be joining Abolade in the practice include Dr. Yelena Chistyikova, MD, David Bond, LCSW, Angel Leonard, LPC, LaToyia Locke, LPC and Elizabeth Manderville, LPC, all of whom formerly worked at APS.

Abolade said the practice would be ready to take patients by March 30 and that he is planning on reaching out to former patients for continued treatment.

“APS was kind enough to give us the information in terms of addresses and telephone numbers of the patients so that we could reach out to them as soon as we’re open to give them the opportunity to scheduled appointments to see us,” Abolade said.

Abolade said he and other doctors saw the opportunity after APS closed on Feb. 13, leaving its estimated 28,000 patients to find treatment elsewhere. Abolade said roughly 1,500 patients were served at its Montgomery office on Eastern Boulevard.

“Over 1,000 patients would come to that office in Montgomery so when we closed, those patients had very limited choices in where they could go and even when they did have places to go, there was a long waiting list because the system could not absorb that number of patients,” he said.

In a release posted on its website last month, APS stated it was closing due to financial issues.

“Unfortunately, due to a decrease in funding from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama and a change in its model of providing behavioral health, we are not able to continue our mission,” the release stated. “We would have liked to have given both our patients and our employees more notice of our closure, but this was not possible under the circumstances.”

Abolade said he hopes that the new practice would be familiar to returning patients.

“They will see familiar people and the same standard at APSY will continue,” he said.

Read or Share this story: <http://on.mgmadv.com/1C9Zwvq>

MORE STORIES



V-O-T-E reception kicks-off anniversary events in city

[\(/story/life/2015/03/15/reception-kicks-anniversary-events-city/70320026/\)](/story/life/2015/03/15/reception-kicks-anniversary-events-city/70320026/)

[\(/story/life/2015/03/15/reception-kicks-anniversary-events-city/70320026/\)](/story/life/2015/03/15/reception-kicks-anniversary-events-city/70320026/)

March 14, 2015, 11:21 p.m.



Spring weather arrives in Alabama (/picture-

[\(/picture-gallery/news/2015/03/15/spring-weather-arrives-in-alabama/24814159/\)](/picture-gallery/news/2015/03/15/spring-weather-arrives-in-alabama/24814159/)

[picture-gallery/news/2015/03/15/spring-weather-arrives-in-alabama/24814159/\)](/picture-gallery/news/2015/03/15/spring-weather-arrives-in-alabama/24814159/)

March 15, 2015, 3:25 p.m.



Cool reception for new sign-up window under Obamacare

[\(/story/news/2015/03/14/cool-reception-for-new-sign-up-window-under-health-care-law/24771799/\)](/story/news/2015/03/14/cool-reception-for-new-sign-up-window-under-health-care-law/24771799/)

[reception-for-new-sign-up-window-under-health-care-law/24771799/\)](/story/news/2015/03/14/cool-reception-for-new-sign-up-window-under-health-care-law/24771799/)

March 14, 2015, 4:41 p.m.