

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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University of Michigan Health details plan to help address mental health crisis

Lansing, Mich. – With approximately 1.7 million Michigan residents having mental health conditions, University of Michigan Health has filed certificate of need requests with the state for additional behavioral health beds for adults and adolescents. The requests are part of an early planning and evaluation stage for an eventual proposal contingent on approval by the U-M Board of Regents.

U-M Health’s plan is designed to help address the behavioral health crisis by using the site of the former Lansing Eastern High School, which adjoins UM Health-Sparrow Lansing. The high school has been closed for years and its dilapidated interior makes it unsafe and cost-prohibitive to locate any services there.

The proximity to the hospital is crucial as the complex needs of behavioral health patients are best served by being close to the UM Health-Sparrow Lansing emergency department.

Nearly 140 adult patients and about 17 adolescents sit in Michigan emergency department waiting rooms every day waiting for appropriate services. In addition, 60 percent of patients admitted to the emergency department for behavioral health needs are waiting for a bed to become available. The U-M Health plan seeks state approval for 120 behavioral health beds.

U-M Health plans a variety of ways to preserve the history and value of Lansing Eastern, understanding the community’s connection to the school. U-M Health plans to work closely on the plan with school alumni and community members in the next few months before a final proposal is put forth to the Board of Regents.

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University of Michigan Health-Sparrow is Mid-Michigan’s premier health care organization and includes hospitals in Lansing, Carson City, Charlotte, Ionia and St. Johns, as well as UM Health-Sparrow Specialty Hospital, Care Network, the Michigan Athletic Club, and ALIVE. UM Health-Sparrow is part of University of Michigan Health. Through the dedication of our 10,000 team members, UM Health-Sparrow pursues a vision to be nationally recognized as a leader in quality and patient experience. For more information, visit UofMHealthSparrow.org.