

Shuttered Maryvale hospital to reopen in April

STEPHANIE INNES APRIL 07, 2019



Barb Bovee (left) Phoenix firefighters a tour of the Emergency Department at the Maricopa Integrated Health System Maryvale campus on April 1, 2019.



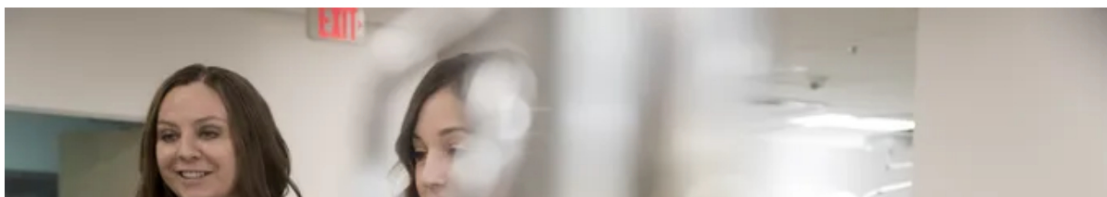
The Maryvale hospital will not only have a fully functioning emergency department, but it will also serve as an inpatient hospital for psychiatric patients in the behavioral health system.

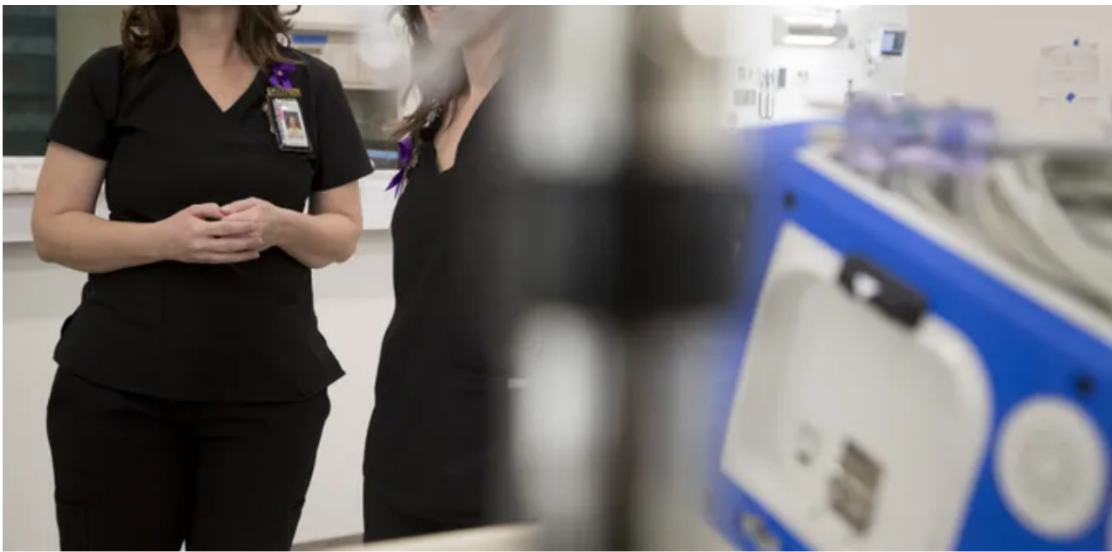


Construction continues on the Behavioral Health level of the Maricopa Integrated Health System Maryvale campus on April 1, 2019.



Pediatric beds in the Emergency Department at the Maricopa Integrated Health System Maryvale campus on April 1, 2019, at 5102 W. Campbell Ave., Phoenix.





Heather Jordan (left), director of nursing, and Kate Moodey, nurse manager, speak in the Emergency Department at the Maricopa Integrated Health System Maryvale campus on April 1, 2019.



The Maryvale hospital was closed in December 2017, but will reopen in this month.





Phoenix firefighter Martin Gracia tours the Emergency Department at the Maricopa Integrated Health System Maryvale campus on April 1, 2019.



Steve Purves, MIHS president and CEO, speaks in the Emergency Department at the Maricopa Integrated Health System Maryvale campus on April 1, 2019.





Barb Bovee (center) gives Phoenix Fire Captain Rusty Stalder (left) and firefighter Luke Moran a tour of the Emergency Department at the Maricopa Integrated Health System Maryvale campus on April 1, 2019.

The Maryvale community has more than a quarter-million residents, yet it has not had a centrally located emergency room in more than a year.

That's about to change. The [Maricopa Integrated Health System](#) this month is scheduled to reopen Maryvale's original hospital, which has been shuttered since December 2017.

MIHS, which is a safety-net health system, spent \$7 million for the property and put \$68 million into refurbishing the hospital. The money comes from Proposition 480, a \$935 million bond authorization approved by voters in 2014 for capital improvement in the taxpayer-supported county health district.

The renovated hospital will serve two purposes — as a full-service, 24/7 community emergency department for adults and children; and as an inpatient hospital for psychiatric patients in the behavioral health system. The hospital's inpatient side will be devoted only to behavioral health care. Eventually, it will have a capacity of 192 psychiatric beds, although the first phase will open 48 of them.

"When they first announced they were closing there was a lot of concern. It was a hospital right around the corner and it did impact the community," said Arizona Rep. Richard Andrade, whose District 29 includes Maryvale.

"Hopefully this is the start of bringing more medical services to Maryvale. The community is happy they are reopening."

The ER entrance will be off of Maryvale Parkway, like it was before the closing. It will not be a designated trauma center, but patients with serious

trauma may be triaged at the Maryvale ER, then transferred to another facility if they need a higher level of care.



Closure was 'a shock'

The hospital's new name for now will be MIHS Maryvale hospital but it is expected to change later. (MIHS is planning to change its name to Valleywise Health).

The original Maryvale hospital opened in 1961 as one of the anchors of the master-planned village of Maryvale. The hospital was most recently operated by the Abrazo Health Network, owned by Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare Corp.

"If it stood alone as its own city, Maryvale would be one of the largest cities in the state. In addition, the median age is 26," said Jeff Armor, executive director of the nonprofit [Maryvale Revitalization Corporation](#). "It is a young, family-oriented community, so you can see why having an ER might be important to us. ... There was a little bit of shock among the residents here when it closed."

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Jeff Armor, executive director of Maryvale Revitalization Corporation
Many neighborhood residents have been watching construction and regularly inquiring about the Maryvale hospital's progress, said Heather Jordan, who is director of nursing for emergency services at MIHS.

Some are on a first-name basis with the security officers, she said. And several Maryvale seniors who live nearby are excited that the hospital will reopen the cafeteria, she said, adding that it will have an outdoor patio.

When they [announced the hospital's closure in October 2017](#), Tenet officials cited a declining community demand for services. They identified four other acute-care hospitals within a six-mile radius and 11 urgent care centers within five miles that neighborhood residents can visit.

The nearest hospital emergency room for the neighborhood right now is Banner Estrella Medical Center, 9201 W. Thomas Road, which is technically within Maryvale's boundaries yet on the far western edge, Armor said. It's about 6 ½ miles from the MIHS Maryvale hospital, which is located in central Maryvale at 5102 W. Campbell Ave., near Maryvale Parkway and North 51st Avenue.

Arizona builder John F. Long started the Maryvale development in 1954 and named it for his wife. Long was able to offer a three-bedroom, two-bath house with a swimming pool for less than \$10,000, according to *Arizona Republic* archives.

Long donated the land for the hospital, which has long been a key part of

the master-planned community, Armor said.



MIHS decided to focus the inpatient part of the hospital on behavioral health beds for people getting court-ordered mental health treatment. But officials also identified a huge community need for emergency care, MIHS president and CEO Steve Purves said.

Armor said some community members are confused about what the hospital will offer, since its inpatient component is for behavioral health. Hospital officials say they are working to get the word out that the emergency department is for the entire community.

"MIHS is here at the end of the day to improve quality of life for our state and for the people we serve, especially here in Maricopa County," Purves told *The Republic* as he walked through the emergency department this week.

"There's a need here."

When it was owned by Tenet, the hospital was getting 40,000 patient visits

to the emergency department per year and 80 percent of those patients were covered by Medicaid, which is a government health insurance program for low income people. Arizona's Medicaid program is called the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

Maryvale is mostly bordered by Camelback Road and Interstate 10 to the north and south, and roughly by the Agua Fria River and 27th Avenue from west to east.

The community is primarily low income and lower-middle income. Armor said nearly all Maryvale children who attend public school in the area qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, which has a yearly household income limit of \$46,435 or less for a family of four.

"One of the challenges of Maryvale is transportation. Even going six or seven miles away is a problem. It might as well be a world away," Armor said.



The 250,000-square-foot-hospital will have 497 full-time employees, including contract labor and District Medical Group physicians, officials said.

Among improvements in the renovation are a separate emergency area for pediatric treatment, and two negative pressure isolation rooms for people who may have contagious, airborne diseases like measles or tuberculosis.

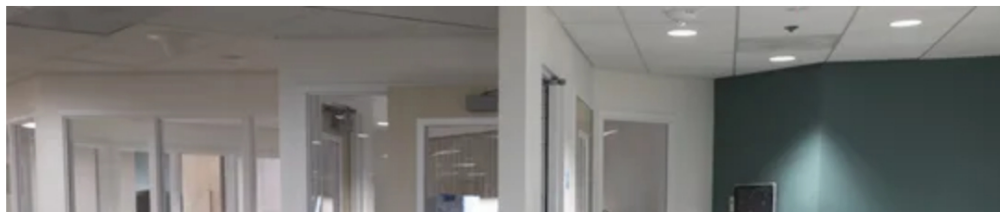
The new emergency department also has a 16-bed "clinical decision unit" where patients may stay in individual rooms for up to 23 hours while clinicians determine whether they are making enough progress to to be discharged or should be admitted to another hospital for further care.

Another area of the emergency department has reclining chairs for people who don't necessarily need to be in a bed for their treatment. The goal is to get those patients in and out as quickly as possible, Jordan said.

MIHS officials had to do a major remodel of the inpatient psychiatric beds, too. Rooms for psychiatric patients need to be free of anything patients could use to hurt themselves.

"We had a national expert in designing behavioral health facilities consult on this job," said Gene Cavallo, senior vice president of behavioral health services at MIHS.

Officials with MIHS are hoping the added behavioral health beds will alleviate a backlog occurring in emergency departments across the Valley, where psychiatric patients are being held for days while they wait for a treatment bed to open up. An emergency department is not the best place for those patients, officials said.





"That is part of the crisis we are trying to address by opening up all these additional behavioral health beds," Jordan said. "What they really need is placement as quickly as possible into an inpatient treatment center."

MIHS officials expect to add a courtroom eventually for mental health adjudications. When the 192 Maryvale beds are included, MIHS will have a total of 433 inpatient behavioral health beds, making it one of the largest providers of psychiatric services in the state.

Banner Health has 417 inpatient psychiatric beds, and the Arizona State Hospital has 390, officials with those entities said.

"As a public health system, how better to serve a community need than to take this facility and rather than build something new, reopen an emergency department and then provide an additional 192 beds for behavioral health care," Purves said.

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