



## **Media Statement**

### **June 7, 2024**

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.