



Media Statement: Lansing City Council Resolution

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow has a plan to help address the behavioral health crisis in our community by using the site of the former Lansing Eastern High School for 120 additional behavioral health beds. Our priority is to create the best possible behavioral health facility to meet the critical needs of adults and adolescents in Lansing, now and in the future. This project is pending approval from the state and the University of Michigan Board of Regents.

To build the best-in-class behavioral health facility Lansing deserves, several things are required: proximity to the Sparrow Emergency Department, enough acreage for a calming outdoor clinical environment and an internal layout that meets regulatory requirements for clinical services and supports the safety of patients and care teams, as well as the needs of patients.

After significant vetting, it's clear that the former EHS site is the only site in Lansing that is appropriate for the behavioral health facility our community needs. No other available sites in Lansing meet these essential criteria.

The building itself, however, cannot be renovated to meet requirements for safe and effective clinical care. The former EHS building was built to serve students and teachers nearly 100 years ago – not to meet the modern behavioral health needs of our community. Converting the existing former EHS building to a state-of-the-art behavioral health hospital is not possible.

We understand the community's connection to Lansing Eastern, and UM Health-Sparrow will work closely with EHS alumni and community members to ensure we meaningfully honor the history and value of the school.

As planning continues, UM Health-Sparrow is committed to continuing an open dialogue and keeping our community updated and informed.