

WUTR-TV Utica
Jonathan Jacobs

Walsh Regional Medical Unit Completes Phase 2 of Expansion

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The Walsh Regional Medical Unit or RMU is a maximum security prison medical center. That means the most dangerous and sickest prisoners in the state are sent there. With an increasing inmate population, the facility says the expansion will fill a huge void.

"Inmates can come to the Walsh Medical Center from any facility in the state, minimum through maximum," Hub Superintendent Paul Goyer said. "We need the beds."

As of right now, the facility has 118 beds for as many inmates. With more inmates, the facility has a set plan to handle the increase.

"Some are getting close to self-care," Deputy Superintendent Amy Tousignant says. "So we try to balance out our nursing work with balancing out who needs what kind of care."

The RMU says the size of expansion will save the state money.

"[The inmates] are housed in RMU's one location, instead of paying the expense of having them in outside hospitals," Goyer said.

As phase two is now complete, the Walsh Regional Medical Unit will begin phase three of expansion, which will include added program and multi-purposes rooms for inmates.

"The third phase of the project will be rehabbed into a program area, which will consist of guidance areas, school classrooms, a library and a chapel," Goyer added.

The second part of phase three will include additional inmate housing and will be completed by November 7th, 2015.

Once completed, the expansion plan will have taken three and a half years.