

# The Intelligencer

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## **New crisis residential program to be completed soon**

By Jenny Wagner

Posted Nov 30, 2018 at 5:00 AM

Lenape Valley Foundation officials announced during a breakfast presentation Thursday in Bristol Borough that construction of The Lodge, the organization's new crisis residential program, is expected to be completed in just a few weeks and open in early 2019.

A mental health crisis is a serious situation, but it doesn't always require inpatient hospitalization and sometimes outpatient treatment is not enough.

However, for people in Bucks County, there hasn't always been an option in between, until now.

Lenape Valley Foundation officials announced during a breakfast presentation Thursday in Bristol Borough that construction of The Lodge, the organization's new crisis residential program, is expected to be completed in just a few weeks and open in early 2019.

A crisis residential program is designed for people who are struggling with mental health issues like depression, postpartum depression, bipolar disorder or are feeling suicidal, at times when the symptoms become too severe to deal with at home or additional support is needed. The program also will accept people with intellectual disabilities and co-occurring substance use disorders.

Lenape Valley Foundation CEO Alan Hartl said the program is something that he and

others in the organization have been thinking about and working on for many years.

“This is the most exciting thing for us because it’s been a gap in Bucks County, and it’s going to finally be filled,” he said.

The 16,000 square-foot Lodge will be located on the campus of Lower Bucks Hospital on Bath Road in Bristol Township and will have 12 beds in private rooms, with stays between 5 to 10 days. The program is voluntary, so people are not locked in.

Sharon Curran, chief operating officer, called the design of the Lodge “home-like” and said it’s designed to promote continued contact with family members and other loved ones. The organization also decided on private rooms to make it more comfortable and accommodating for people of all genders and those who have trauma or certain special circumstances, she said.

“We really want them to come in and feel like it’s a welcoming environment,” Curran said.

She noted that crisis residential programs typically have outcomes that are better than inpatient hospitalization, with higher satisfaction and a lower cost.

People receive case management services and participate in individual and group therapy while working through their current crisis. And when they are discharged, they will have a plan for follow-up care to help prevent future crises, Curran said.

When the Lodge opens, it will be covered only for people who have Medicaid or are uninsured and referred through the county, as well as those who wish to pay out of pocket. However, Curran said Lenape Valley Foundation will be pursuing contracts with health insurance providers as well.

On the opposite end of the building from Lodge will be the Lenape Valley Foundation Bristol outpatient wing, offering individual and family therapy and other services, Curran said.

The Lodge cost \$6.5 million, with funding supported by donations, including proceeds from the organization's recent 60th anniversary awards dinner. Startup expenses are being covered in part by county reinvestment dollars.