

# Kaptur House will open soon

## Will give those dealing with health crisis a chance to recover

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**SANDUSKY**

The newest addition to the Erie County Health Department campus, the Kaptur-Rogowski House, is expected to open within the next few weeks.

"I think it's safe to say that within September, we should be able to open," said Pete Schade, Erie County's health commissioner.

The health department has been working to obtain state licensing for the facility.

The \$2.7 million, 8,500-square-foot building is located on the health department campus on Superior Street off of West Monroe Street by Lions Park.

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, obtained \$2 million of federal funding for the building.

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Pete Schade, Erie County's health commissioner, stands inside the common room of the Kaptur Rogowski House. It's located on the health department's campus in Sandusky.

Register photo/  
TOM JACKSON

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## KAPTUR

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covering much of the cost.

The name of the new building therefore honors Kaptur. "Rogowski" is also a family name for the congresswoman. Rogowski is Kaptur's mother's maiden name. Kaptur's mother's name is Anastasia Delores Kaptur née Rogowski.

The new building will give people having a mental health crisis, a substance abuse crisis or a health crisis a chance to:

- Recover, which includes formulating a recovery plan with trained officials

- Spend a night or two in the facility

- Receive meals

- Have an opportunity to get laundry done

The idea is to slow down the care and talk with people to find out what they really need, Schade said.

For example, if someone is having a mental health crisis, that person might also have a primary care issue, such as an abscessed tooth or back pain.

The health department aims to deal with all of a person's needs and to work with both the health department's own community clinic and with other health care providers to make sure the person is taken care of, Schade said.

"The hospital's going to be a good partner for us," he said, referring to Firelands



Provided photo

The new Kaptur Rogowski House, which will open soon on the Erie County Health Department campus.

Regional Medical Center in Sandusky.

The plan is also to keep in contact with the patient and make sure the patient can access treatment, Schade said.

"We're going to stay in touch with you," Schade said.

Kaptur House will treat people from the local area, not just from Erie County.

"Anybody who presents for help will be taken," Schade said.

People can obtain help at Kaptur House by calling the health department. A special phone number will be launched soon for people seeking help, Schade said.

Up to 16 at one time people can stay in Kaptur-Rogowski House for a short-term stay, typically three days or so. The new building

has 10 single rooms and two family rooms.

The building includes a nursing station, a kitchen, mental health counseling rooms, a conference room and a large open room with a fireplace where patients can receive visitors.

Fourteen people will work at the house when it opens, Schade said, and the operating budget is expected to be about \$1 million a year.

Funding is expected to come from Medicaid, Medicare, local foundation grants, government grants and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Erie County.

In its new budget, the local board agreed to commit up to \$1 million to help the house get started, Schade said.