Davis Regional Medical Center cut the ribbon on its new $2.4 million dual diagnosis unit Tuesday. Patients will begin using the unit in November.

The new unit adds 14 beds for patients with mental health and substance abuse issues, bringing the hospital's total behavioral health beds to 42.

Dr. Andrew Owens will be the unit's primary psychiatrist, heading a 25-person support staff.

Rooms are designed with patient safety in mind. Open, slanted borders prevent hanging objects and inserts in the external door allow staff to enter from outside, preventing a patient from barricading themselves in a room.

"This will allow us to treat the total patient," said Dr. Ralph Bentley. "This will fill a deficit in the county for mental healthcare and prevent patients from waiting three to four days in the emergency room for a bed to open hundreds of miles from home."