

# Spindletop MHMR opening new facility Oct. 1

**“Studios at Spindletop” will offer independent living accommodations to people with mental illness**

It is well known that some people with mental health diagnoses are at risk to become homeless at some point during the illness.

Therefore, Spindletop is starting a brand new venture: **The Studios at Spindletop**, which will open Oct. 1.

The Studios is a 12-room, co-ed, independent-living facility for STMHMR clients with mental illness who are also at risk for homelessness. It will be located on the Spindletop South campus. Each eligible tenant receives a private apartment, which he or she may decorate to his or her own taste. Spindletop supplies basic furnishings, along with a refrigerator and microwave for each room.

“This project was funded through some recovery monies that sprang from Hurricane Ike,” said STMHMR Director of Network Services Sally Walden. “We had a building we thought we could put to good use, and The Studios was born. It is just an incredible facility.”

In addition to the apartments, The Studios features a communal living room, a kitchen and a laundry area. For

recreation, there will be a large television and a landscaped courtyard.

That is what The Studios is. More important is what it is not.

“This is not a treatment facility,” said Walden. “It is not a hospital and it’s not a shelter and you can’t be housed there against your will. It is not a halfway house. This is simply a nice place for people who happen to have mental health diagnoses to live until they can secure housing on their own.”

No one will “run” The Studios. A tenant designated as a Resident Leader will handle day-to-day issues.

Tenants may come and go as they please, but the front doors will be locked

at 10 p.m. However, if a tenant wanted to stay somewhere else for the night or go away on vacation, that is perfectly fine.

Each apartment at The Studios will be subsidized, in part, through a Housing and Urban Development voucher. However, tenants will pay a portion of the rent, with the amount based on tenants’ incomes.

**Who qualifies to live at The Studios? To find out, call Brandy Mouton or Sally Walden at extension 2224.**

**The Studios at Spindletop will open its doors at 10 a.m., Oct. 1, with an open house reception for dignitaries, community leaders, tenants, the media and Spindletop employees**

★ C E N T E R ★