



Proposed Behavioral Health Facility

Brent Estes

to:

Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us, rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

11/18/2015 09:05 PM

Hide Details

From: Brent Estes <brentlmft@sbcglobal.net>

To: "Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>, "rhedges@co.slo.ca.us" <rhedges@co.slo.ca.us>

Please respond to Brent Estes <brentlmft@sbcglobal.net>

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a San Luis Obispo native, mental health professional, and Templeton resident who is in support of the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton. I am a licensed psychotherapist who has offices both in Los Osos and Arroyo Grande. My full caseload encompasses people from the entire County of San Luis Obispo. I work with children, teens, adults and their families. My referral sources are judges, attorneys, schools, churches, medical doctors and various other professionals.

The time is right for the consideration of a facility of this type in our county. We have nothing for children or adolescents who need immediate acute care. So many of these children need a short-term, safe environment to help with distressing thoughts and challenging behaviors as experienced by the overwhelmed family at home. The mental health diagnoses of depression and anxiety with children, teens and their parents is increasing. The unfortunate result for these children is: self-injurious behavior, suicide attempts, sleep deprivation, and eating problems, to name just a few. Many of our county's minors are victims of abuse, domestic violence, horrific trauma/disaster, family loss, etc.... During these times these individuals need a safe monitored environment for short-term emotional support and acute care. They may need a monitored medication observation, assessment or medication adjustment, and/or a behavioral health success plan - that immediate attention cannot be handled on an outpatient basis, the County's Mobile Crisis Team, Transitions Mental Health, or the medical hospitals.

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There are two major challenges of a behavioral health facility coming to Templeton. One is that it's location is in the shadow of Atascadero State Hospital. Many locals see this hospital with ASH glasses on. They have a difficult time understanding and differentiating emotional / mental health issues from those with a characterological criminal mindset. This proposed facility will treat individuals, like you and I, (our children, grandchildren), who have medical insurance or cash to pay for the hospitalization. The second challenge, is that this is ultimately a new concept for county residents to embrace. It has been decades since we have had anything of this type here. French Hospital in San Luis Obispo used to have an adult behavioral health unit almost 20 years ago. Once again, there is nothing currently, for insurance paying adults and their children. I am thankful for the other communities and counties that welcome, understand, care for and treat our county's children, teens, and adults on a daily basis. (Most of our children, (age 12 and above), are transported to Ventura County to Aurora Vista Del Mar Hospital, taken away from our county for care.)

I have heard the concerns from Templeton residents over the idea "these patients" could roam the streets or end up at surrounding businesses and in neighborhoods. Having worked on the treatment and clinical staff of two behavioral health inpatient facilities in Southern California, I have never seen or experienced this to be the case. These folks are not criminals and they just want to go home, much like a patient at a medical-surgical hospital upon discharge. There may be those that also use this proposed facility for treatment, that come from other areas; and I say, "welcome". We welcome out-of-area individuals into our county on a daily basis through tourism, businesses, and our colleges to name a few. Why should this venture be any different? Once again, this comes from a thankful heart to those other places, that over the years, have cared and allowed our residents into their zip codes to get much needed help and come home.

There is a need in our county for this behavioral health hospital. The time is now. I am asking that these ideas be taken into consideration when contemplating your decision.

Thank you for your time and review of this letter,

Brent Estes, LMFT



Please read :Who's against plans for a psychiatric hospital in Templeton — and why | The Tribune

Diane O'Neil

to:

darnold, fmecham, rhedges

11/18/2015 12:58 PM

Cc:

Shaw Stevia Wilson

Hide Details

From: Diane O'Neil <dianegoneil@mac.com>

To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us,
rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

Cc: Shaw Stevia Wilson <stevia7655@gmail.com>

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/investigations/article39099444.html>

Who's against plans for a psychiatric hospital in Templeton — and why

On a recent evening, Templeton resident Murray Powell and 20 or so neighbors met once again to organize their arguments against a plan to build a psychiatric hospital in their community.

“We’re not opposed to a facility that serves our county, but it would need to be much smaller and in a better location,” Powell told The Tribune. “There are absolutely no support services in Templeton and very, very little support services in Paso Robles and Atascadero to support that facility.”

The proposal by property owners and Carmel residents Harvey and Melanie Billig calls for a 91-bed psychiatric hospital and a separate 55- to 60-bed live-in memory care facility on a 5-acre parcel across from [Twin Cities Community Hospital](#).

The opposition has focused on the psychiatric hospital, a voluntary facility designed to treat mental illnesses such as depression, schizophrenia and eating disorders. It would not treat those suffering from substance abuse.

The hospital would be separated into units for children, adolescents, adults and seniors and be designed for short-term stays.

Currently, no such facility exists in San Luis Obispo County.

The county’s 16-bed Psychiatric Health Facility in San Luis Obispo primarily serves low-income residents on Medi-Cal and transfers out patients with private insurance — the patient base the Templeton hospital would serve.

Opponents of the Templeton proposal in its current form say they worry that discharged patients won’t leave town and that the area’s public safety, schools and transportation system would be in jeopardy. They’re also skeptical of the statistics that proponents and others use to demonstrate a local need for a facility of its size.

The proposal’s supporters say that stigma against mental illness — not research — is feeding much of these concerns. They say the hospital would fill a huge gap in local psychiatric care, saving local families the heartache and financial burdens of having to travel statewide for care.

“I don’t think it would be the answer to everything, but it would be a good step, and we need it,” San Luis Obispo resident Madeleine Johnson said. “If you had a broken leg, you go to the ER. But with this county, you have to go through all kinds of hoops and distances before anyone helps you for a mental illness.”

Supporters believe that the facility would not only attract those who leave the county for care, but also serve those who forgo inpatient treatment entirely because of distance.

Question of safety

Ellison is most concerned about safety.

“There’s (a limited number of sheriff’s deputies) to patrol the whole North County ... and we don’t have any support if someone acts out,” he said. “If they get checked out at 9 o’clock at night and if they act out, we don’t have any police presence.

“I worry about people being discharged who’d show up at people’s homes for dinner.”

Schneider of Vizion said the hospital would ensure that patients get home safely.

“If on that rare occasion there’s a patient that has no means of getting home (with family or friends), we will figure out a way to get them there, such as get them a cab or transport them in some way or get them a voucher. But we will not under any means discharge them to the street,” he said.

Moreover, Schneider said, hospital staff will develop plans for when patients “are going home, when they will see their own doctors, and we make appointments for that follow-up care,” he said.

“Our policy will be that they have to go back to their psychologists or psychiatrists who they regularly see in their home counties,” he said.

But Ellison said the hospital couldn’t force its voluntary patients to leave town.

“How do you tell a person who is at-will to go back to their own home? They might say, ‘Nah. I like it here. I’ll live at the park.’ ”

Hospital proponents say Ellison’s worry is common, but typically unfounded.

“I have friends with mental illnesses that need to be checked in from time to time, and they are upstanding citizens, and they’re not going to be checking out of facilities and sitting on curbs,” said Pam Zweifel, a San Luis Obispo resident. “After they are done, they want to go home. They would be going back to their lives, their own psychiatrists and their own physicians.”

San Luis Obispo resident Joe Johnson facilitates a support group with his wife, Madeleine, through the local chapter of the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#).

“Nobody wants it in their neighborhood because there’s a lot of stigma about the mentally ill,” he said. “Would the opponents rather have people, their neighbors, suffer from these illnesses and go untreated? I don’t think so.”

A doctor's assessment would be required before a patient could be discharged, the Billigs said.

If a patient is considered a danger to himself or others, he would be transferred to the county's psychiatric hospital on a 72-hour involuntary hold.

Powell said that after combing through county documents that indicated interest in designating the facility to accept involuntary patients, his major worry is that the county may persuade the hospital to move in that direction. The Billigs and Schneider said that's not currently the plan.

Meanwhile, the Sheriff's Office doesn't anticipate a safety problem.

"The Sheriff's Office scope on the behavioral health hospital project is limited to security issues only. And as such, we have no reason to believe at this time that it presents a security concern," Sheriff Ian Parkinson said in a statement.

Schools

In March, the Templeton Unified School District sent a letter on behalf of its board of trustees to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors warning that the hospital could have a "significant impact" on district finances.

State law requires local school districts to provide regular and special education to children hospitalized within their boundaries.

The law applies to both medical and psychiatric hospitals.

In the letter, the district said, "It is likely that students who need hospitalization in a mental health facility will tend to have substantial special education needs.

"Depending upon the needs of a particular student, these services can range from educational instruction to complex professional services such as nursing, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, or intensive behavioral services."

Although the school district would receive state funding for hospitalized children to cover general education, no additional funds would be provided to pay for any special educational services, the letter said.

The psychiatric hospital will reimburse the school district for any inpatient education costs the district is tasked to provide per state law, Schneider told The Tribune. He said he would put that commitment in writing through a contract with the school district.

Public meeting

Meanwhile, others are waiting for all the facts to be hashed out when the county Planning Commission considers the proposal

before forming an opinion on the project. That public meeting is tentatively set for Dec. 10.

Among them is Atascadero resident Janice Thompson, who has a brother with mental illness.

“Any interest in the mental health problem is good,” she said. “It’s good that these issues will be made so public when the proposal goes before the county’s Planning Commission because it gets people talking.”

THE FOUR-PART SERIES AT A GLANCE

Part 1: [Proposed mental health facility poses many questions.](#)

Part 2: [A closer look at the county’s Psychiatric Health Facility.](#)

Part 3: Arguments for and against the proposed facility in Templeton.

Part 4: [Meet the psychiatric hospital's landowners and operator.](#)



Behavioral Health Facility - Templeton

Vicki Shelby to: Frank Mecham

Cc: Ramona Hedges

11/16/2015 09:23 AM

We received a call from "Jenna" who is involved with Transitions Mental Health . She called to voice her support for the above proposed facility indicating that this will be a "safe" facility and will not house "5150's" as the facility in SLO handles those through County Behavioral Health .

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham
1055 Monterey St., D430
San Luis Obispo CA 93408
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful " - Frank G. Burgess

"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been " - Mark Twain



FW: Behavioral Health Hospital Support
Vicki Shelby to: Ramona Hedges

11/19/2015 08:53 AM

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Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham
1055 Monterey St. D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 11/19/2015 08:53:26 AM-----

----- Original Message -----

From : Asta <asta_hamann@hotmail.com>
To : "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us" <hphipp@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc : "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>, "cmckee@co.slo.ca.us" <cmckee@co.slo.ca.us>, "hmill@co.slo.ca.us" <hmill@co.slo.ca.us>, "jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us" <jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us>, "jcafee@co.slo.ca.us" <jcafee@co.slo.ca.us>, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>
Sent on : 11/18 09:24:34 PM PST
Subject : Behavioral Health Hospital Support

Dear Holly, Frank and Debbie!

Please support the establishment of the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. My husband and I were on the fence about it until tonight when we heard a very well qualified panel in Atascadero. They cleared up all our misgivings from the qualifications of the facility operators to the history of equal or higher property values where other mental hospitals have been built in California. The panel members dealing directly with patients shared all the drawbacks of having to send patients, including children, to hospitals from Ventura to Santa Rosa and how that impacts the families. Health professionals often have to take the time to travel to these far off facilities to personally check their patients in! Having the Behavioral Health Hospital here will be a tremendous service to our entire county.

Thanks for your support. You may be helping to save our teenage nephew who at the moment is going untreated.

Duane and Asta Hamann

Nov-16, 2015

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2015

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

Frank Meekam
County Supervisor
Rm D 430
County Court Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Meekam:

I am writing in support of the proposed Templeton Behavioral Health facility. Currently there is a dire lack of available mental health care in our County, and many residents in need of this care are forced to travel for hours out of County in order to receive care. This can be difficult if not impossible for many, especially the most vulnerable.

I believe this is a shameful situation in a County which otherwise provides excellent healthcare options for its citizens. Please support the building of this much-needed facility.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cooper

Sharon Cooper
178 Edgewater Lane
Pase Robles, CA 93446

K. Asdell
8355 San Francisco Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422

RECEIVED

NOV - 3 2015

10/31/15

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

Mr. Gibson

We need the Templeton Behavioral Health center proposed for this county. It is irresponsible not to provide treatment for those in need of it in our area. It would benefit individuals, their families & our communities as a whole. Please give serious consideration to supporting this desperately needed facility.

Respectfully,
Kathie Asdell, a 30 year resident of SLOCO & mental health provider

178 Edgewater Ln.

Paso Robles, CA

93446

Nov. 3, 2015

NOV - 3 2015

City Planning & Bldg Dept.
976 Osos St. # 200

Lanham Bluffs, CA 93408

Attn: Ms. Holly Plupps

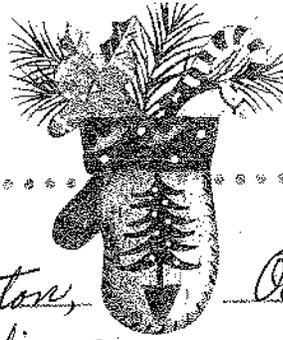
Re: Templeton Behavioral Health facility

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Sincerely,
Sharon Cooper

Sharon Cooper



just a note

Dear Lynn Compton,

October 21, 2015

I am writing in support of the Templeton Behavioral & Mental Health facility, because I believe it is so important to our county, & is badly needed.

After listening to the stories of young people who had to be taken hundreds of miles away from home in order to be treated for a bipolar disorder or depression, thus causing further stress for them & their families, I realize what a hardship it is for them & their families who love them.

This only makes their treatment & recovery take even longer. Last year over 300 people had to be taken either to Santa Barbara or north to Santa Rosa for treatment, causing more stress to "stressed-out people". We can do better, so let's do it!



Sincerely,
Gloria A. Smith
5250 Mendocino Ave.
Maradero Ca. 93428

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
Fighting for Air



Behavioral Health Hospital Support

Asta

to:

fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, Hphipp@co.slo.ca.us

11/18/2015 09:24 PM

Cc:

"vshelby@co.slo.ca.us", "cmckee@co.slo.ca.us", "hmill@co.slo.ca.us",
"jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us", "jcafee@co.slo.ca.us", "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us",
"bgibson@co.slo.ca.us", "ahill@co.slo.ca.us"

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Cc: "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>, "cmckee@co.slo.ca.us" <cmckee@co.slo.ca.us>, "hmill@co.slo.ca.us" <hmill@co.slo.ca.us>, "jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us" <jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us>, "jcafee@co.slo.ca.us" <jcafee@co.slo.ca.us>, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>

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