



Re: Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Center: Templeton

Laura DeLoye

to:

rhedges

12/08/2015 04:36 PM

Hide Details

From: Laura DeLoye <mariposamusicttherapy@gmail.com>

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Chairperson Topping and Planning Commissioners,

As a professional, board-certified music therapist in both private practice (Mariposa Music Therapy), co-director of a local, non-profit organization (Arts for Living) and current chair of the SLO County Adult Services Policy Council, I write to you as a concerned citizen and professional working and living in SLO County to ask that you please provide high consideration of the proposal of the new Mental Health Inpatient facility being addressed at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, December 10.

Recent San Luis Obispo County Adult Services Policy Council meetings have addressed the Mental Health needs of our County's older adults and adults with disabilities. Information has been presented to us by County professionals recognizing the support needed for additional mental health beds within our County. Our county is in dire need of additional mental health support and supporting the proposal offered in Templeton near Twin Cities Hospital would help ease some of the current strain in the care system.

In November, Judy Vick, LMFT, manager of SLO County Behavioral Health, presented to the ASPC meeting, confirming that there are 16 licensed inpatient mental health beds at the SLO facility on Johnson Avenue. Up to four of those 16 beds can serve children or teens, allotting only 12 - 16 beds available for inpatient mental health treatment of adults and seniors and they must be either indigent or Medi-Cal recipients. All individuals with medical insurance needing inpatient mental health treatment are sent out of our County. This means that other counties are providing mental health treatment for residents of SLO County. Moving our residents in to another county for treatment removes them from proximity to their families and social support systems, greatly reducing the ability for family and social support systems to be actively involved in visitation, treatment and the development of a stabilization plan for their return to their community within SLO County.

According to the presentation by Judy Vick, research shows that 140 beds are needed within San Luis Obispo County in order to address the inpatient mental health needs of our residents within the County. The current 16 beds available for indigent and Medi-Cal patients falls significantly short of the 140 beds needed to serve the basic needs of our County.

Please pursue and adequate number of mental health beds to meet the needs of San Luis Obispo County residents needing inpatient mental health treatment. I appreciate your consideration of the current proposal of the inpatient facility in Templeton.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura DeLoye, MT-BC

Mariposa Music Therapy (Co-Owner)
Arts for Living (Co-Director)
SLO County Adult Services Policy Council (Chair 2014-2016)
Access for All (Secretary, 2014-2016)

MariposaMusicTherapy@gmail.com

805-225-6101

P.O. Box 3522

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

~Creating Interactive Connections through Music Therapy Interventions~

WARNING: This communication is intended for use by the receiving individual or entity identified above. The message may contain medical or personal information that is privileged and confidential under applicable laws. The sender and intended receiver are required to reasonably safeguard protected health information. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by phone at (805)225-6101 and shred or permanently delete the message. Thank you.



Proposed Templeton Mental Health Hospital
Diana Hulburd

to:

rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

12/09/2015 02:30 PM

Hide Details

From: Diana Hulburd <mos1353@sbcglobal.net>

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

Please respond to Diana Hulburd <mos1353@sbcglobal.net>

Dear Ms. Hedges,

I will be unable to attend tomorrow's meeting regarding the proposed Templeton Mental Health Hospital. I would appreciate it if you could forward this message to all planning commissioners involved in deciding on the appropriateness of this facility on Las Tablas Road.

Although I agree that mental health services are needed in our county and the state of California, the largest facility in the state does not belong in our little town. I would ask that all commissioners vote a resounding "NO".

- * This facility is surrounded by residential neighborhoods where children walk to and from school on a daily basis. This road is already heavily impacted with traffic for residents and medical facilities. I live near this road and avoid it whenever possible as traffic congestion and parking issues make it a difficult road to navigate without a near collision.
- * The potential for it to be converted to an LPS facility in this small neighborhood is outrageous. Who will be responsible for paying any additional law enforcement support and emergency services?
- * Who will be responsible for educating any school age child in this facility? Our schools are already strained. We need to be providing education for our local residents, not outsiders that are not paying for local services.
- * The developer has had multiple business transactions in this community. Self interest and self profit is his only motivation.. No one has come away unscathed after dealing with this gentleman.

Please consider the long term impacts and costs associated with this facility in our small community. There are multiple other sites in the state of California or San Luis County. Why not the vacant ' Boys School' in Paso Robles?

Thank you,
Diana Vanderlip

M O S

Professional Medical Billing & Practice Services

medical office solutions

Templeton, CA 93465

Phone: 805-434-3420

Fax: 805-434-2427



Planning Commission Contact Form (response #371)

Internet Webmaster

to:

planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us

12/09/2015 09:08 AM

Hide Details

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>

To: "planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us"

<planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us>

Planning Commission Contact Form (response #371)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Planning Commission Contact Form
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm
Submission Time/Date:	12/9/2015 9:07:36 AM

Survey Response

Name	Janet Kourakis
Contact Information (Phone Number, Email, etc.)	805 543 4425
Question or Comment	<p>I urge you to support the request for the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton. There are no facilities in that part of the County and currently patients are sent out of the County. The site is appropriate and has long been part of the medical complex area shown in the Templeton area General Plan.</p>



Mental Hospital in Templeton

Marty Landes

to:

rhedges

12/09/2015 09:56 AM

Hide Details

From: "Marty Landes" <mlandes@chamblin-landes.com>

To: <rhedges@co.slo.ca.us>

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Re: Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Center: Templeton

Laura DeLoye

to:

rhedges

12/08/2015 04:36 PM

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To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

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Access for All (Secretary, 2014-2016)

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Templeton Psychiatric Hospital

Margaret Ladue

to:

rhedges

12/08/2015 04:30 PM

Hide Details

From: Margaret Ladue <peggyladue@gmail.com>

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

Hello,

I appreciate you taking the time to read my email. I am a Registered Nurse and live in Templeton. I want to make clear that I understand the acute need for psychiatric treatment in SLO county. I recently moved from the Fremont area and in my Internal Medicine Clinic we had a terrible time placing acute mentally ill patients when they needed it the most. I have no issue with the stated need.

I have two issues with the proposed facility being built in Templeton though:

- 1) Templeton is a very small community with limited emergency services. Besides the scarcity of police there is a scarcity of Emergency Medical Responders here as well. I have already advised my husband that we need to be ready to drive each other to the hospital if 911 responders are otherwise

busy in the event of a medical emergency at our home. This is frightening to me as it currently stands and I do not want these EMT's to be stretched further. The already limited Emergency Medical Responders should not be tied up at a 91 bed facility that will need to call them for their compromised patients' inevitable medical emergencies. Even though Twin Cities Hospital is close by, 911 is needed to transport medically ill patients. Psychiatric staff, in general, do not handle emergency medical care beyond CPR.

2) Why is a company that has never built anything let alone a psychiatric hospital being hired to plan and build this facility? Sounds crazy to me.

I am hoping that my concerns can be relayed at the upcoming Planning Commission Hearing December 10th.

Thank you,
Peggy Ladue



Templeton Mental Health Hospital

Kim Wishon

to:

Rhedges

12/08/2015 10:07 PM

Hide Details

From: Kim Wishon <kimberlywishon@gmail.com>

To: Rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

I am writing this letter to very much oppose the 91 bed mental hospital in Templeton. I am a resident and teacher in the Templeton School district. I oppose the facility for many reasons. Some of the reasons are listed below.

This facility is too close to homes and parks where children are playing. Patients can leave at any time and will wander through neighborhoods, loiter at parks, and congregate in the river bed. We do not have the resources to handle problems that will arise. We have a very understaffed sheriff's Dept not a police force. Our already crowded schools will be impacted.

A facility should be built in the south county where 90% of the mental health services operate and most of the population lives with the resources to handle it. A wing at the community hospital or Sierra Vista would be so much more appropriate. Unfortunately money talks so the ramifications of this facility built in our community is not a concern to a group that does not live here.

That is very sad.

Kim Wishon



Mental Health Hospital in Templeton

Marisa Barber

to:

rhedges

12/09/2015 10:19 AM

Hide Details

From: Marisa Barber <marisabarber916@gmail.com>

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed mental health facility on Las Tables in Templeton. Being a medical provider in this area I do understand the need for mental health facilities in our county. Although I do not believe this facility is a good fit for our small community. The services including sheriff and school district do not have the means to support such a large facility in our small community. I do believe this project would be well suited in San Luis Obispo or South County where they have larger school districts and police departments in the city. Also, the company that is proposing this mental health facility has never operated a facility of this scope of practice and is a cause for concern because many questions remain unanswered for the community.

Thank you,
Marisa Barber PA-C



Templeton Mental Health Facility

Anita Konopa

to:

rhedges

12/09/2015 02:10 PM

Hide Details

From: Anita Konopa <anita.konopa@gmail.com>

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

Please forward this email to all Planning Commissioners -

Please do not approve this facility in Templeton. The community is very much against it, as evidenced by the TAAG vote against it.

Even though it is an unincorporated community, we deserve to have a say in what happens here.

There are too many unknowns regarding the long term implications, as well as not enough infrastructure for this facility.

Thank you,

Anita Konopa



For San Luis Obispo and
Santa Barbara Counties

**Central Coast Commission
for Senior Citizens**

528 South Broadway
Santa Maria, CA 93454-5109
(805) 925-9554 - Telephone
(805) 925-9555 - Facsimile
e-mail - seniors@kcbx.net
Home page: www.centralcoastseniors.org

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Jim Talbott, Santa Maria
President
Robert Putman, Nipomo
Secretary
Randall Harris, San Luis Obispo
Treasurer

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Lee Diaz, Santa Maria
Libby Kelly, Orcutt
Karen A. O'Neil, Santa Maria
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Advisory Council

Barry Jay Marks, Lompoc
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Members

San Luis Obispo County

Garilee Cave
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Santa Barbara County

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Patricia Low
Amy Mallett
Linda S. Mier
Brad Parks
Lynda Paxton
Will Schuyler
Kathleen Sullivan
Martin Tucker
Jim West
Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

December 8, 2015

County Planning Commission
976 Osos St. Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

FAX - 781-1242

Dear Commission Chair & Members,

The intent of this letter is to support the proposed Conditional Use Permit for the development to construct an assisted living facility and a behavioral health facility in Templeton. This item is on the December 10, 2015 Agenda.

Currently, senior citizens are a significant population in San Luis Obispo County. And it is expected to grow so that by 2020 they will be 28% of the County population. And it will continue to grow. And it is the old-old population that presents the greatest challenge to any community.

One of the current issues facing senior citizens and their families is the lack of a psychiatric health facility to complete an assessment and treatment of an older adult. The current facility is both too small and inappropriate for an older adult. The nearest appropriate facility is in Ventura County. This creates issues for an older spouse or older adult children to participate in any treatment or visit the elder.

Documentation from the County demonstrates the need for a psychiatric health facility in San Luis Obispo County. The location in Templeton is a good choice. The surrounding area is medical facilities and its proximity to the 101 freeway makes it convenient for family to visit.

And, there is also a growing need for assisted living facilities in the County. While most older persons desire to remain in their home, the need for safety and security can make that impossible. As a result, you see growth in the assisted living industry throughout the Nation and in San Luis Obispo County. Sixty (60) additional assisted living beds will make a difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this important proposal.

Sincerely,


Barry Jay Marks, Chair
AAA Advisory Council

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE HEARING ON DECEMBER 10, 2015 AT 9:00 AM

Location: County Supervisors Chambers, 1055 Monterey St., SLO

Planning Commission
San Luis Obispo County
Attn.: Holly Phipps
976 Osos Street, #200-P
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Email: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us

Phone: 805-781-1162

RECEIVED
DEC - 9 2015

Re: **Opposition to proposed psychiatric facility in Templeton**

The undersigned, a concerned citizen, urges our leaders to act now to vote against the proposed psychiatric facility in Templeton.

Concerns about the proposed psychiatric facility include:

- Imports large numbers of patients from other counties; exceeds SLO County's needs by approx. 90%;
- Facility is not a secure facility. Adult patients may leave anytime, day or night;
- Burdens SLO County resources such as public safety, schools, traffic infrastructure;
- Houses school-aged children patients; creates financial burden on School District;
- Community in Templeton lacks support resources for large quantity of patients discharged;
- Close proximity to residential neighborhoods full of young children;
- Project goes against recommendations of TAAG;
- Project goes against concerns of many local Physicians;
- Project goes against concerns raised by the Templeton Unified School District;
- Location and size driven by investor motives;
- Majority of community believes it is the wrong place and wrong size for our community;

PLEASE OPPOSE THE PROPOSED FACILITY.

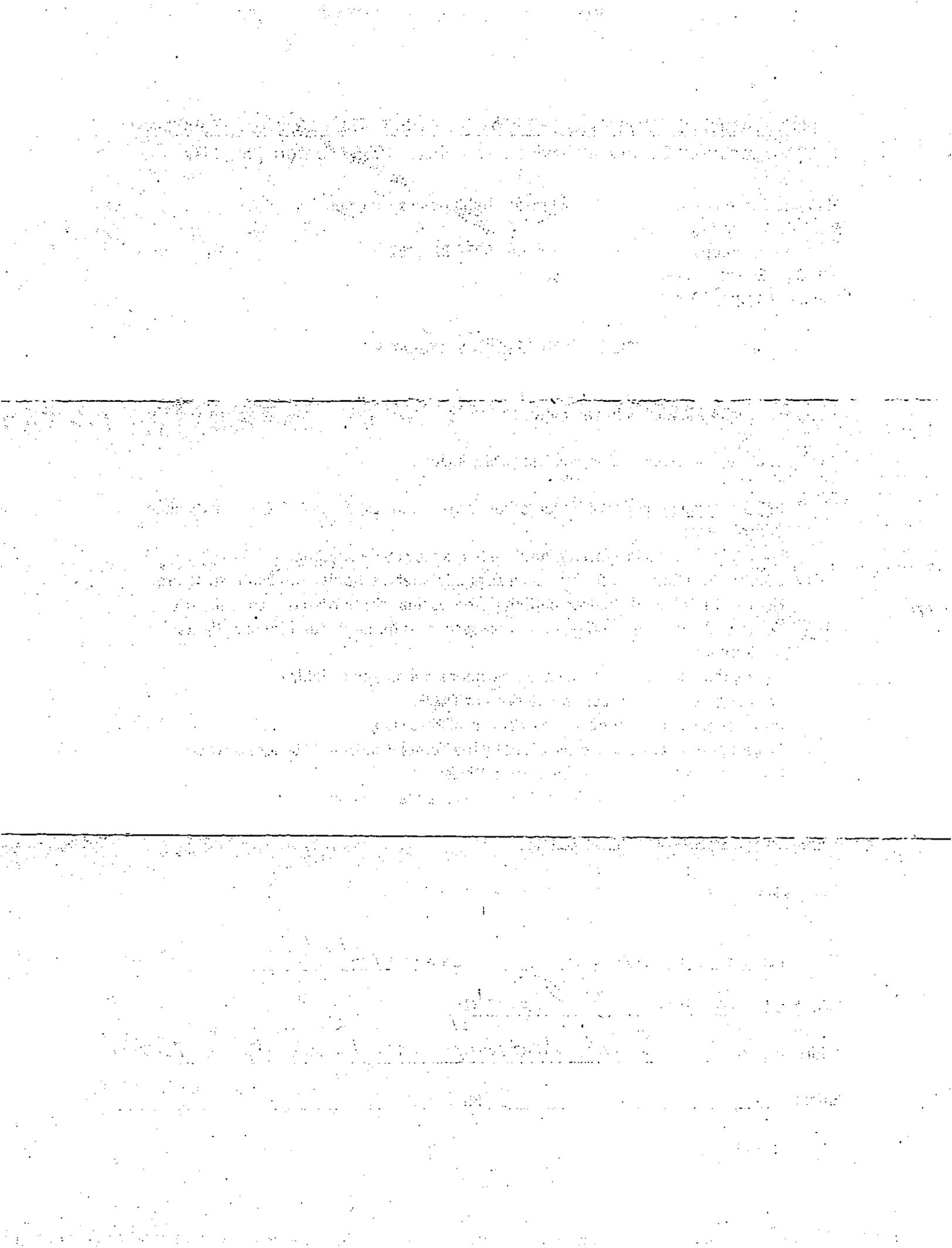
Thank you.

Signature: Isabel F. Shirley Date: 12/6/15

Print Name: Isabel F. Shirley

Address: 806 Saint Andrews Cir. Paso Robles 93446

Email: _____ Phone: _____



Ralph B. Allison, MD
4106 Welsh Way
Paso Robles, CA 93446-4178

DEC - 9 2015

December 6, 2015

SLO Co. Planning & Building Dept.
976 Osos St.
Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Psychiatric Hospital in Templeton

Sirs,

I am a retired psychiatrist living in Heritage Ranch with some views on the proposal you will have a public hearing about on Thursday. I won't come to that hearing since I expect there to be a large crowd of Templeton residents, including some very paranoid ones who fear the worst. But I wish to express here some constructive suggestions.

From what I have read, the owners of this property have contracted with a management company which has absolutely no experience in running a psychiatric hospital. This is poor judgement, to say the least, According to Fortune magazine, they would be better served by contracting with either Acadia Healthcare or Universal Health Services, the two biggest operators of private psychiatric hospitals in the USA. At least they know how to do it correctly.

As a graduate of UCLA School of Medicine who did his psychiatric residency at Stanford Medical Center, I get the magazines from those two medical schools. If these owners were smart, they would contact the heads of the Psychiatry Departments at these two competing medical schools and see if they have professors who have a vision as to what kind of a hospital they might like to work in here in Templeton. Medical schools always need a variety of teaching hospitals where their professors can try out novel ideas and teach students in the various disciplines. If this could be a teaching hospital, it would be kept high class and have a steady supply of good clinicians on staff. UCLA and Stanford are always competing for patients in this MidCoast area, and a teaching center here would be good advertizing for their main campus medical facilities.

When I worked at CMC State Prison, I worked with psychology graduate students from a graduate school in Fresno, so this is not an odd idea to consider.

It seems unwise to first build a building and then decide what to do with it after it is built. Form should come AFTER function. They have no psychiatrist on hand to decide what should happen inside this building. If they did, he or she could help the architect design a structure which might be most suitable. How can someone who never treated patients design a center where patients are to be treated? And what was suitable in the past may not be best in the present day. We need

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The first part of the document is a list of names and dates, followed by a section of text that appears to be a list of items or a table. The text is very faint and difficult to read, but it seems to contain a list of names and dates, possibly related to a historical record or a list of events.

The second part of the document is a list of names and dates, followed by a section of text that appears to be a list of items or a table. The text is very faint and difficult to read, but it seems to contain a list of names and dates, possibly related to a historical record or a list of events.

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some vision here from someone who knows first hand what goes on in a psychiatric treatment center.

Professionally, I ran the Santa Cruz Mental Health Service and treated patients in that county hospital psychiatric ward. I admitted the first psychiatric patient to the new 12-bed private ward in Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital where I was Chief of Psychiatry for 5 years. I then treated patients in the Yolo County Hospital psychiatric ward and in the private ward of Woodland Memorial Hospital. Here I had admitting privileges at SLO County Hospital while treating patients full-time at CMC State Prison for 12 years.

Personally, my mother became psychotic in her 70's, thinking she had poisoned the entire L.A. population while living with my father in Pasadena. I had to rush down there to help my father find a psychiatric bed in a private hospital for her. Also, my sister was hospitalized for a manic attack in Oakland and two first cousins have been hospitalized repeatedly in state and private psychiatric hospitals. So I know what it is like when the need exists and nothing is there where and when you need it. So I know such a hospital is needed in SLO county, but I don't see the owners of the land using much wisdom to bring it about.

If you want to discuss any of this with me before you make a final decision, I can be reached at 805-610-2878, 805-237-2665 or ralfalison@att.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B Allison MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ralph B. Allison, MD

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEEN HEARING ON DECEMBER 10, 2015 AT 9:00 AM

Location: County Supervisors Chambers, 1055 Monterey St., SLO

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San Luis Obispo County
Attn.: Holly Phipps
976 Osos Street, #200-P
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Email: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us

Phone: 805-781-1162

DEC - 9 2015

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- Majority of community believes it is the wrong place and wrong size for our community;

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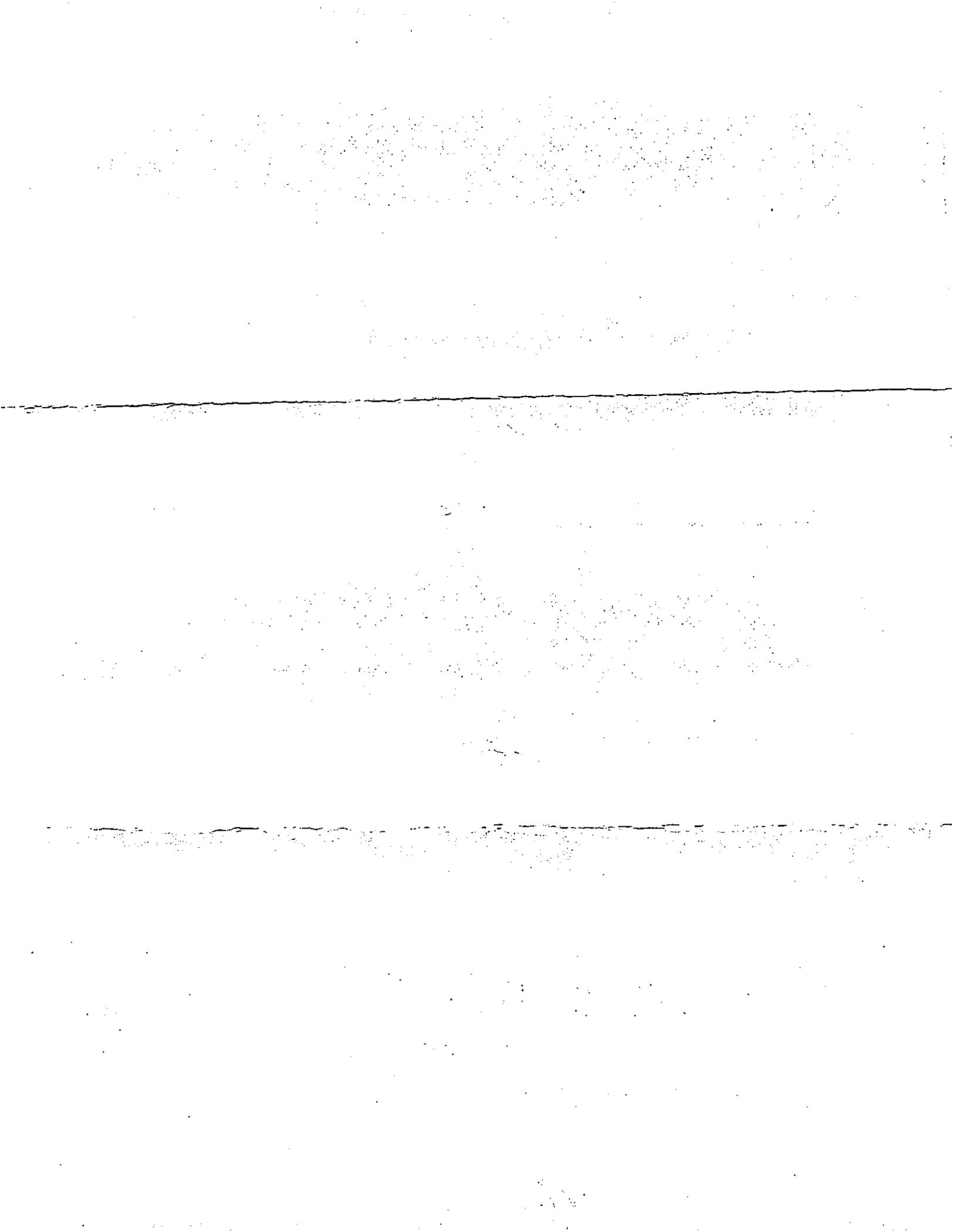
Thank you.

Signature: Bonnie McKim Date: 12/10/15

Print Name: Bonnie McKim

Address: 921 Ambrosia Lane San Luis Obispo, CA

Email: bmcKim@Calpoly.edu Phone: (805) 550-8115



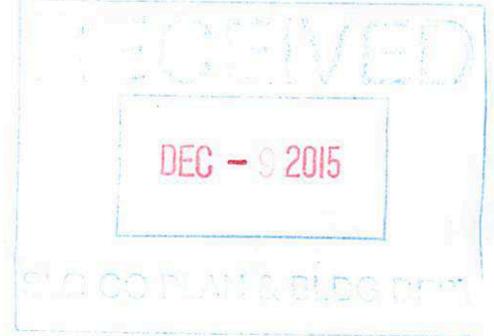
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- Burdens SLO County resources such as public safety, schools, traffic infrastructure;
- Houses school-aged children patients; creates financial burden on School District;
- Community in Templeton lacks support resources for large quantity of patients discharged;
- Close proximity to residential neighborhoods full of young children;
- Project goes against recommendations of TAAG;
- Project goes against concerns of many local Physicians;
- Project goes against concerns raised by the Templeton Unified School District;
- Location and size driven by investor motives;
- Majority of community believes it is the wrong place and wrong size for our community;

PLEASE OPPOSE THE PROPOSED FACILITY.

Thank you.

Signature: Sarah Allen Date: Dec. 7, 2015

Print Name: Sarah Allen

Address: 8180 Dover Canyon Rd Paso Robles, CA

Email: lovintostdogs@gmail.com Phone: 237-9862



Crystal Kidwell

805-434-3283

crystalkidwell@gmail.com 1582 Tanager Court Templeton, CA 93465

SLO CO PLAN & BLDG DEPT

RECEIVED

DEC - 9 2015

December 3, 2015

SLO County Planning Commission
976 Osos Street
#200P
SLO, CA 93408

To whom it concerns:

I am a Templeton resident writing to oppose the proposed 91 bed Behavioral Hospital that would be built 2 blocks from our home. There are many reasons I oppose this project but the reasons I will focus on are patient rights and police support.

Unfortunately, mental illness runs in our family. Four family members have been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, depression and schizophrenia, some have combinations. I have a great deal of **first hand experience** living with these mental disorders.

At this juncture, the mental hospital is slated to accept insurance paying patients who voluntarily commit themselves. What the commission needs to understand is that the patient has all the rights. Unless they are a danger to themselves or others, they can check in and out anytime they want to. They can refuse rides home, they can refuse all help from their families, they can check out far before they are ready to rejoin society. I know these things because that is exactly what my sister did. She has bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia. She has checked herself out of the hospital multiple times before she was ready. She hid in bushes for days naked and menstruating in a residential neighborhood near the hospital until the police picked her up. She refused all help from family. She stalked my mother for 6 months and wrote letters threatening to kill her. She has accused male members of our family of bizarre sexual activities with their children. Our family is afraid of her. This is not someone any of us would want wandering around our homes.

With the beds filled at an average of a 10 day stay, this hospital would serve 3,600 patients a year. A certain percentage of psychotic patients will fall into the same category as my sister. They will refuse all help. They will wander in residential neighborhoods. They will need police. To build such a huge facility without police support is irresponsible. From my family alone, police have had to be involved with two attempted suicides, one successful suicide and multiple incidents with my sister. Three sheriffs covering a huge area will not begin to be able to meet the needs of the patients.

Sincerely yours,

Crystal Kidwell

Richard K. Powell

1988

1988 10 10 10:00 AM - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM

October 3, 1988

SLC County Planning Commission

10:00 AM

10:00 AM

10:00 AM

The first item on the agenda is a report from the Planning Commission regarding the proposed rezoning of the property located at the intersection of 1000 East and 1000 North. The Planning Commission has recommended that the property be rezoned from its current zoning to a residential single-family zoning. This recommendation is based on the fact that the property is currently zoned for a use that is not permitted in that area and that the proposed rezoning is in the public interest.

The second item on the agenda is a report from the Planning Commission regarding the proposed rezoning of the property located at the intersection of 1000 East and 1000 North. The Planning Commission has recommended that the property be rezoned from its current zoning to a residential single-family zoning. This recommendation is based on the fact that the property is currently zoned for a use that is not permitted in that area and that the proposed rezoning is in the public interest.

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10:00 AM

Richard K. Powell



Fw: Behavioral Health Center
Donna Hernandez to: Ramona Hedges

12/09/2015 01:51 PM

Donna Hernandez
Administrative Assistant
Records Management
805-788-2947
dhernandez@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:51 PM -----

From: Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO
To: Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 12/07/2015 08:30 AM
Subject: Fw: Behavioral Health Center

For Billig:

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/07/2015 08:30 AM -----

From: Michael Delbar <mdelbar@charter.net>
To: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/06/2015 07:46 PM
Subject: Behavioral Health Center

Holly Phipps,

I understand that there will be a public meeting this coming Thursday regarding the projected construction of a behavioral health facility in Templeton. I will not be able to attend the meeting, because I have to work. However, I wanted to voice my vote for the facility. My wife and I have three sons. One of them, Carl, committed suicide in 2012. He was 19 years old. We were totally unprepared for the way the medical community is set up for patients with mental health issues. Since Carl was over 18, the doctors treating him would not speak to us. We did not even know there were treatment facilities outside the county. If there had been a local

facility, perhaps one of Carl's health care providers would have recommended it to him. He was taking medication prescribed by his physician. One of the side effects of this medication is suicide. We really could have used a facility to help our son.

I have read in the papers that some in the local community are opposed to such a facility in Templeton. However, their fears are unfounded. There are many forms of mental illness. Depression is one of them. But these individuals pose no threat to society. They are already all around us. But due to the stigma attached to mental illness, we all tend to ignore them. But they are already here. Our community needs this facility to help these individuals and their families who are also desperately attempting to help them any way they can.

Please share this letter in the public hearing. At the very least, count this as a vote FOR the mental health facility. We really need it.

Thank you,

Michael Delbar
811 Nicklaus Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

805 835-3723
mdelbar@charter.net



Behavioral health facility

tammy clauzel hinrichs to: RHedges@co.slo.ca.us

12/09/2015 01:58 PM

I know you're getting a lot of emails regarding the behavioral health facility in Templeton. So I will try and make this short. Templeton is not a good fit for this facility. Templeton is a small community where people moved to raise their families and have their children go to a good school in a good community. Owners of this property have a right to do what they want with it to make money. But a behavioral health facility is not a good fit. The majority of our counties population is south of the grade. It is a facility that is needed but Templeton is not the right fit. I feel that a private and insurance pay facility would be best in San Luis Obispo at the already Medi-Cal facility on Johnson Street. In that area they already have the resources that mentally ill, behavioral health people need after they are released. Please consider this when you are making your decisions... Thank you

Sent from my iPhone



Fw: Behavioral Health Hospital
Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges
Sent by: **Vicki Shelby**

12/09/2015 01:10 PM

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:09 PM -----

From: Cathy Murray <cathyleenmurray@gmail.com>
To: ahill@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/09/2015 12:40 PM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital

My name is Cathy Murray. I am a forty year resident of San Luis Obispo County. I am also a volunteer for Hotline. In this capacity I have talked with many county residents who are either suffering with mental illness or are the family members, or friends of people with a mental illness. These people are frustrated with the limited services available in our county to treat people who are in crisis. A new hospital in our county would allow residence to receive treatment without having to leave the county. Mental illness is a terrible hardship for sufferers and their families and cost to our community. In not having viable treatment locally we are increasing this hardship on our local residents.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Cathy Murray
777 Manuela Way
Arroyo Grande, CA
93420

To: San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission

Re: Application for Conditional Use Permit for a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

From: Kathryn Hansen,
P.O. Box 264
Santa Margarita, Ca 93453

I am attaching to this e-mail a form which was being passed out in front of the Von's supermarket in Atascadero by someone collecting signatures for a petition regarding this facility. Possibly you are familiar with this list of claims and doubtless in looking at it you will recognize the false statements even better than I do. I am writing to suggest that petitions which have been circulated with this much false information should not carry much weight in making decisions about what is in the best interest of the community. I hope that the planning commission will go forward with the recommended actions of the staff in this matter and not allow themselves to be bullied by the loud voices of those who would appeal to fear through lies and manipulation.

Just as a matter of personal experience, I have two mentally ill persons in my immediate circle of friends. Both of these persons have had to be hospitalized as a matter of course in their illness several times. It is often a matter of balancing one's resources against the urgency of the problem which determines when or if a person receives the needed treatment. If a family will need to drive to Fresno or to Ventura to interact with their relative once hospitalized, sometimes the family will not have the resources to do that so they will not immediately seek the help that is needed. Especially in the case that an individual has an ongoing problem, resources run out, thresholds of alarm get higher, vehicles may not be available, time off work may not be possible without losing one's job. Very sick people sometimes go untreated in our county because the treatment centers are so inaccessible. The question is, do we as a community acknowledge that we have mentally ill people with us and provide for them and their treatment, or do we put the burden of our denial on the families, wait and hope that nothing violent or tragic ever happens again.

Please add my experience to the input you have received from others in the county. We do need a treatment facility. It is currently your responsibility to decide whether this particular facility can be built. I ask you to do your jobs correctly.

Sincerely,



Kathryn C Hansen, Santa Margarita



Fw: Billig
Donna Hernandez to: Ramona Hedges

12/09/2015 01:50 PM

Donna Hernandez
Administrative Assistant
Records Management
805-788-2947
dhernandez@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:50 PM -----

From: Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO
To: Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 12/07/2015 11:35 AM
Subject: Billig

Two letters, one is an attachment.

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/07/2015 11:34 AM -----

From: Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO
To: Ramona Hedges/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 12/07/2015 11:17 AM
Subject: Fw: 91 bed psyche facility
Sent by: Jennifer Caffee

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 11:16 AM -----

From: "Colton, Kevin F. MD" <drkcolton@mdvip.com>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "Darnold" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/07/2015 09:48 AM
Subject: 91 bed psyche facility

Hey Frank, just a quick note to let you know that I and many others are thinking that any county that takes in more mentally ill patients than they are already responsible for are not thinking straight. The unseen financial burden resulting from the mentally ill increase in our county will probably outweigh the money taken in by the facility. Check out what happened to Ventura with their increase in facilities. They are probably wishing they were no longer in the psychiatric tourism business. Please study this before just saying yes to Billig. Thank you for reading this. Kevin Colton MD

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/07/2015 11:34 AM -----

From: Michael Manchak <mmanchak@gmail.com>
To: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us , rhedges@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: Michael Manchak <mmanchak@gmail.com>
Date: 12/07/2015 11:33 AM
Subject: Letter re proposed Behavioral Health Facility in Templeton

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR RECEIPT

Dear Ms. Phipps, Hedges,

Please find attached my letter regarding the proposed Behavioral Health Facility in Templeton.

Thank you.

Mike Manchak

Holly Phipps, County Planning & Building

hhipps@co.slo.ca.us

Ramona Hedges, Planning Comm. Secretary

rhedges@co.slo.ca.us



Templeton Area Advisory Group Petition ltr_Templebn Project MM.pdf

We are concerned citizens who live in Templeton, and we have numerous concerns regarding the proposed 91 bed Psychiatric facility.

1. We do not have the infrastructure necessary to support this facility. We do not have the necessary law enforcement presence or fire department capabilities to handle the situations which will arise from construction of this facility.
2. We do not have the necessary support for patients once they are released from the facility, such as a homeless shelter, a County Behavioral Health Center and all other ancillary services.
3. There will be no outpatient services at this facility. Unfortunately, mental illness is not cured in nine days, the average length of stay. The former head of Atascadero State Hospital, John DeMorales, stated that when outpatient services at ASH were discontinued, the rate of recidivism went from 5 to 65 percent.
4. The operator, Mark E. Schneider, CEO of Vizion Health has told us that they will not be taking 5150 patients in the hospital. However, once they see their occupancy is well below breakeven levels, that could change in a heartbeat. Ann Robin, SLO County Behavioral Health Administrator wants this facility to handle the overflow from the 16 bed PHF unit in SLO. Where will the patients go when they are discharged? Psychiatrists are so busy, many patients will not be seen for more than a month after discharge. Many of these people will not go back to where they came from. A number of them will be homeless wandering the streets.
5. Based on County mental health statistics, we send approximately 400 people per year out of the County for mental health care. Using an average stay of nine days, that is 3600 bed days per year. That will account for 10 beds per year. How are the other 81 beds to be filled?
6. Some of the unintended consequences of building the facility may be very costly to the County. Bringing in people from other parts of the state will result in an increased homeless population as evidenced in Ventura. A substantial increased cost to the Templeton School District will occur as the patients up to 18 have to be schooled. Approximately 40 percent of the proposed beds are for school age children. There will be a cost of increased police and fire protection.

We need a 15 bed facility for the County, not 91. The facility should probably be located in San Luis where most of the population and necessary Mental Health services for the County are housed.

Fred and Frede Russell



Fw: Contact Us (response #2968)

Board of Supervisors to: BOS_Legislative Assistants, Ramona Hedges, Holly Phipps

12/09/2015 07:23 AM

Sent by: Juliane Hendricks

Forwarding this to everyone

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 12/09/2015 07:22 AM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us >
To: "BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us " <BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us >,
Date: 12/08/2015 03:22 PM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2968)

Contact Us (response #2968)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>
Submission Time/Date:12/8/2015 3:22:08 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Chris Weygandt Alba

Telephone Number:
805-434-326

Email address:
enchantedoak@sbcglobal.net

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):

Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors ,
Don't be misled by fear, from an isolated enclave of self-serving homeowners
without a shred of medical education in brain disorders , who imagine a
"ludicrous" private psychiatric facility in Templeton will discharge some
psychotic "out-of-towners" lurking madly in their landscaped yards .

In fact, a compassionate community in the North County wholeheartedly desires
local access to private psychiatric acute care . In churches, neighborhood
forums, and respectful dialogues, we have scores of knowledgeable people,
experienced in psychiatric crisis, speaking out on behalf of suffering
neighbors - actively SUPPORTING a private-patient psychiatric facility on Las
Tablas Road.

Who speaks for our community? For multitudes who don't speak or can't speak
and aren't heard at all? Not those vocal few homeowners near Las Tablas Road
- with no medical education in mental illness, no experience in psychiatric
crisis - only ignorant fear of their self-styled "ludicrous" scenarios .

Let's ask our greatest resource and largest population—our burgeoning generations of elders—and the Baby Boomer seniors who are parenting their parents as well as their children and frequently their grandchildren too. Too bad so many of these elders can't speak eloquently—because America's soaring rate of crippling dementia is stripping their brains of language while it shreds their dignity.

Who speaks for loved ones dying the slow agony of Alzheimer's—the most rampant brain disease in America? Citizens of Templeton itself are crying for help, a safe room in a trained facility—but no room is available for them, because only ONE facility exists in the North County and it suffers a shortage of beds.

Then please pass the mike to thousands of senior citizens in SLO County with clinical depression, the American epidemic of suicidal Baby Boomers—oh, except they too can't speak, because they're paralyzed by despair or planning their suicides.

Let me speak, then, for eight dead friends in my little sphere recently, with gifted brains afflicted by fatal illness in happy SLO County. Contributing citizens of our community, their medical insurance was useless in this county offering no private, inpatient treatment—and so, eight good neighbors suffered unspeakable deaths:

They fell upon railroad tracks and off cliffs, and choked on vomit in bed, or lost everything and overdosed, or hung themselves at home, for loved ones to find—and for their children to do likewise in teenage misery.

My extended family is a lifelong contributing part of this community. We've built schools, churches, libraries, homes, orchards, and industries. We've worked in dirt, grease, blood, and asbestos, providing meeting halls, classrooms, volunteer labor, almonds, meat, heat, and cool air—and died without medical treatment for brain disease.

My parents were Paso Robles Bearcats for life. They helped build a school, a neighborhood, and a playground for the community. My father crawled through fiberglass and asbestos in this county, giving people comfortable air-conditioning until cancer killed his brain at age 52.

My mother, the Bearcat May Queen of 1949, was driven from her own town at 79 and 80 pounds, when she suffered an Alzheimer's crisis at my Templeton home. Her hometown had no room for her in a skilled treatment center, offering only closed doors in a single facility—so she was forced from her familiar home to a strange place elsewhere. The trauma triggered the final stage of the disease, killing her in four months.

And I endure lifelong periodic major depression, even while my husband and I support our community—we volunteer, use local businesses, raise a family of self-supporting citizens, and promote multiple non-profits to help our neighbors. Four times in 17 years, I've gone hundreds of miles away from home to find treatment at in-patient, private-care facilities. I've had to leave my family and support network for weeks at a time, to fight for my life with distant psychiatric care.

Distance from treatment interferes with recovery from medical crises in the human brain. Distance isolates fragile people from their family support system. Distance prevents families from participating in the long and difficult recovery from devastating illness.

We are overwhelmingly an older population of private means, already isolated geographically from sophisticated medical treatment centers. Our community

needs care, and our county needs to provide care for our people .
Please approve this private psychiatric facility in Templeton .

Sincerely,
Chris Weygandt Alba - self-trained mental-illness expert, citizen of
Templeton, resident of San Luis Obispo County



Re Proposed 91 Bed Psychiatric Facility in Templeton.

Murray J. Powell

to:

rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

12/08/2015 11:49 PM

Hide Details

From: "Murray J. Powell" <murray@dfrios.com>

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

Forwarded from former Executive Director of Atascadero State Hospital Jon DeMoralis

From: [Jon and Sylvia DeMoralis](#)

Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2015 12:21 PM

To: [Murray Powell](#)

To whom this may concern:

My name is Jon De Morales. I am a member of a group of neighbors who are opposed to the proposed psychiatric facility in Templeton. I own a home approximately one mile from the site of this proposed facility at 351 Puffin Way. My wife and I moved to this address in 1989. We currently spend more time in Hawaii but plan to move back to Templeton in the near future. I am retired from the State of California. I was employed by the State Department of Mental Health for 44 years. I served as Executive Director of Atascadero State Hospital for 14 years collectively over three periods of time. Prior to retiring for good in 2011 I was Acting Deputy Director of all State Hospitals.

There are many issues regarding the impact of this project on the Templeton Community, including but not limited to the credibility of its promoters and the accuracy of data provided in support of the need. I urge you all to review Mr. Murray Powell's findings which collectively makes a compelling argument in opposition to this project

I am particularly concerned with a lack of a detailed business plan. The promoters of this project have offered vague, unsubstantiated, and sometimes contradictory general reasons in support of this project, "this is for you SLO, your family, friends, and neighbors", this facility will bring much needed jobs (200) to the county, this is a secure facility, this is an "at will" facility.

I am especially concerned with how this facility will maintain occupancy and survive financially. The current proposed capacity is 91 beds. Based on SLO Mental Health admission/discharge data (which accuracy poses some questions) there is no way that this facility can survive financially without functioning as a regional treatment facility and admitting patients from other counties. The project promoters say the average length of stay will be 8 to 10 days. This facility represents 33,215 bed days (number of beds multiplied by 365 days). At

the projected length of stay it must admit over 3,000 patients a year (bed days divided by average length of stay). There is no way that SLO will be able to provide this volume of patients. The promoters implore approval because this facility is for "you" meaning SLO residents. In fact the overwhelming majority of patients will come from outside of SLO county. The promoters have denied seeking LPS (Lanterman, Petri, Short) civil commitment, WIC 5150) certification when in fact they have discussed this option with local officials. Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5150 provides for the involuntary commitment of patients who are deemed dangerous to themselves or others. Will the operators of this facility seek and obtain LPS certification in order to ensure a level of occupancy to ensure the viability of this proposed facility? The vast majority of patients held under LPS 5150 are not recertified for extended treatment. Extended commitment requires a court order and must be supported by an overt act of dangerousness. Most patients will compensate quickly and no longer meet criteria for involuntary commitment. Their symptoms and signs of dangerousness will abate with treatment. However, many patients will discontinue their medications and use drugs (primarily alcohol) when no longer in custody. Non compliance with treatment is the number one reason for decompensation. Upon discharge they cannot be compelled to leave the county.

Consider the impact on Templeton and other North County communities when patients from other counties are discharged. Where will they go, where will they live? There are no post hospital programs or support services in Templeton. Ventura county treats patients on contract from other counties primarily Santa Barbara. Ventura found that discharged patients do not leave the area. In effect the homeless mentally ill population has shifted from Santa Barbara to Ventura. The promoters say they will ensure discharged patients will return to their counties of origin. There is no legal way to compel a patient to leave Templeton or the county upon discharge.

There may be a need for a few additional beds for adolescents and adults in need of respite, supportive, psychiatric treatment, but the scope and location of this project far exceeds this county's needs and poses serious problems to the surrounding communities and SLO in general.

Jon DeMoralis

Attention: Planning Commission Secretary,

My name is David Wesner and I live just two blocks away from the newly proposed mental care facility in Templeton California . Please do not let this happen. There are hundreds of children living right here. It also sounds if it will impact our schools and teachers. Why here? Why allow a mental facility that will be treating mentally unstable people, in a residential neighborhood who can leave this facility any time they choose and walk right into a Templeton family home. It could be my home. Please reject this project.

Thank you, David Wesner

Hello,

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the proposed mental health facility on Las Tablas Road in Templeton. I don't believe this type of facility is a good fit in our community. While I do believe there is a need for it in our county, the size and scope of this project will overwhelm the services of our small community. The objections are itemized below:

- 1) We do not have a police department to deal with any problems the mentally ill patients can require that are either in the hospital care or going to and from the hospital. The sheriff's department has the largest area to patrol, especially in the North County, with a minimum number of officers available at any time. They cover from the coast to Kern and Fresno counties and having this type of operation in our small community may be overwhelming.
- 2) The operator has no current buildings in operation. In my work I deal with these type of inpatient facilities on a regular basis. The complexity of operating a medical facility in California is extremely difficult to do. This proposed operator does not offer any past experience of operating this type of facility for anyone to judge how this operation would proceed and interact with the community. If we could be pointed to similar facilities that they have run to see if our concerns are valid that would be great but we do not have any. Based on my experience in developing these type of facilities this is a risky investment at best and I am very suspect of what would happen once this facility opens (ie: selling the project, changing the type of patient usage, etc.)
- 3) I have lived in Templeton since 1987 and our children attended Templeton schools. This is a small bedroom community in the North County. This project does not fit into this community. It would be better suited in a larger community more centrally located for the patients. I am very concerned about what the patients do after they are released from the hospital. It just does not feel right. I would be interested if Harvey and Melanie Billig would want this facility in Carmel within walking distance from their house. I doubt it.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you.

Martin Landes
610 Wild Oats Way
Templeton, CA 93465
805-434-1508

Dear Mr. Hedges,

We can't attend the SLO County planning meeting to discuss the Psychiatric Care Hospital in Templeton. We are against this approval for the following reasons:

1. The TAAG voted 7-0 to reject this proposal.
2. The Templeton School District should not be responsible for school aged patients. Our school can't handle that many students.
3. The sheriff will need to have extra staffing.
4. It is not secure. Many children walk to school along that same street. Many older residents and single women walk that street.
5. We don't want our taxes to increase to cover the 5150/5250 and other involuntary legally committed individuals.

Please listen to the TAAG and the people of Templeton. We don't want this to pass.

John and Teri Stieg



Fw: letter on psychiatric hospital
Donna Hernandez to: Ramona Hedges

12/09/2015 01:51 PM

Donna Hernandez
Administrative Assistant
Records Management
805-788-2947
dhernandez@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:51 PM -----

From: Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO
To: Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 12/07/2015 08:55 AM
Subject: Fw: letter on psychiatric hospital

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/07/2015 08:55 AM -----

From: "Nancy Allison" <nancy@nancyallisonhomes.com>
To: <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/07/2015 08:53 AM
Subject: letter on psychiatric hospital

Our Mental Health Ordeal

I am writing in support of the proposed psychiatric center in Templeton. Our family had firsthand experience with mental illness when our then 13 year old son became highly anxious and very depressed, in a matter of a few weeks during his 7th grade school year. He was so incapacitated that he couldn't attend school, he spent his days laying in his bedroom under a tent he made with blankets, unable to eat much, sleep, focus on school work or enjoy life. We have private health insurance and were not able to get him into a local psychiatrist for over a month. There were only two local

psychiatrists specializing in adolescents in the county and both were booked out for at least 6 weeks. We ended up having to take him out of the county to Vista Del Mar Hospital where he had a 5 day stay in a facility that was terrifying for a sheltered kid from a small town . Meanwhile, we stayed in a Ventura motel to visit him one hour a day. It was a hellish time for our family, as we were totally unprepared; we felt alone, overwhelmed and we found ourselves wondering what we had done wrong as parents . When your child is suffering and you can't help them, it is unbearable. At the height of our son's ordeal, when he was psychotic and suicidal, I felt like I was going crazy. Adding to our stress was the stigma of mental illness. Even though our families were very supportive , we were unable to leave our son alone, and were cut off from many friends who could not deal with the serious crisis we were in . Had our son been dealing with a physical illness, we would undoubtedly have received casseroles and offers of rides and help. When a family is dealing with a mental health crisis, the stigma is very isolating.

Thankfully our story had a good ending. Our son was diagnosed with anxiety and Major Depression, conditions that a significant portion of the population deals with. We found a competent local psychiatrist, attended NAMI classes (Family to Family) to get educated and got the right medication and counseling for our son. He now attends college and is a productive and wonderful young man . He still deals with his illness but has medication and coping skills to help guide him through challenging times . Knowing there is local psychiatric hospital here should he get to a crisis point again , will be very reassuring to our family and so many others with loved ones dealing with a brain disease . My hope is that San Luis Obispo county will rise above the fear, stigma and nimbyism and help local and neighboring county's families dealing with a similar situation .

Nancy Allison
Grover Beach, CA
805 431-8554



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Promoting the wise use of land – Helping to build great communities

December 3, 2015

FROM: Chairman Topping

TO: All

SUBJECT: Anticipated start time of Hearing Item 19.

The Billig Parcel Map and Conditional Use Permit (Item 19) requesting an assisted living facility and behavioral health facility will not begin any earlier than 11:00 AM. The Planning Commission meeting can be viewed live at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/meetings.htm?>

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department
976 Osos Street #200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300
Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

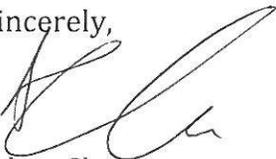
The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,



Adam Shaban
1880 L St.
San Miguel, CA 93451
adam.shaban@hotmail.com

JUDITH DIETCH, Ph. D.
Clinical Psychology
294 South Main Street
Suite C
Templeton, CA 93465

November 8, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department
976 Osos Street, #200
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408

RE: Templeton Behavior Health Facility

Dear Commissioners,

I am in full support of this very much needed facility. Let me preface my comments by saying that I am a licensed psychologist in private practice in Templeton. I am also a 20 year resident of Templeton and live within five minutes walking distance to this proposed facility.

I support this project because:

- 1) It will provide much needed inpatient mental health services to our county and the surrounding area.
- 2) It will allow my clients who need inpatient services to be treated locally. As of now they have to travel to Santa Barbara or Ventura for treatment. This takes them away from the support system that is an essential part of their treatment, including their families. As a clinician, when they are hospitalized locally, it affords me the opportunity to be involved in their treatment including aftercare planning.
- 3) The location is within a hospital zone that also has numerous other medical facilities. This is an integral part of their treatment as well because there are often complicating medical issues.
- 4) A private psychiatric facility provides many well paying jobs and opportunities for local residents.

I have heard opposition arguments to this proposal and I would like to address them.

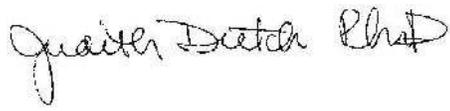
- 1) There are concerns about the kinds of clients that would be treated. I have been in practice for 40 years and during that time have hospitalized many clients ranging from children to geriatrics. These clients are not the criminally insane like those in Atascadero State Hospital. These are your and my neighbors who are struggling with depression and anxiety, perhaps from the loss of a loved one or post-partum depression. They may also need a medication change or adjustment that is best accomplished inpatient. These are not homeless vagrants who will wander the streets. I can say that in all the years that I have done hospitalization in private facilities there has never been an incident in the surrounding neighborhoods. These are neighborhoods like Santa Barbara, Palos Verdes and Torrance with residences across the street from the facilities. These clients are there voluntarily and return to their homes when they are released.
- 2) There have been concerns expressed that placing this facility in this hospital corridor will threaten the safety of the surrounding neighbors. There is no more appropriate place for a state of the art psychiatric facility. I would not support this if I had any concerns about my safety or the safety of my neighbors.
- 3) There are concerns that this will attract many patients from outside of the area. I can only state that I would hope this facility would offer the quality of services that would attract the private and voluntary patients that I now have to send to Ventura or Santa Barbara. This brings revenue to our county that otherwise goes elsewhere.

I am also grateful that these other facilities have not taken the attitude that I have heard expressed or my clients would have nowhere to go when they need inpatient care.

The opposition I have heard appears to be based on fear of the unknown and the constant comparison to Atascadero State Hospital and the forensic patients that are admitted there. This comparison is erroneous. The patients in a facility like the one proposed are no different than our neighbors. Due to confidentiality issues and the negative stigma that has been vehemently expressed against mental illness in this community, patients that have expressed support for this project to me are fearful about speaking up.

Please allow this project to proceed. It is needed and once it is operational, the community will recognize its value. They will recognize that their fears are unfounded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Dietch Ph.D." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name below.

Judith Dietch, Ph. D.

Planning Commission
San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, #200-P
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

November 30, 2015

Subject: **OPPOSITION to proposed behavioral health project in Templeton**

Dear Planning Commissioners:

As a Templeton resident, I am one of many residents and professionals who are very concerned about the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton ("project") and **urge that it be DENIED**. Please address my concerns as well as those raised by TAAG, Templeton Unified School District, and several hundred residents. My concerns and questions are as follows:

- The location and scale of the project goes against good planning and common sense, and was not created by unbiased health experts. It is too close to nearby neighborhoods with children which is very concerning for residents since psychiatric patients can wander neighborhoods after a hold period for which there are no mental health resources nearby. **Issue / Question: What is the discharge strategy for patients who may wander throughout the community?**
- The project is over-sized for our county. Having nearly as many beds as Twin Cities Community Hospital, but on a much smaller lot, the project capacity far exceeds the number of beds that health experts determined are needed for SLO County (i.e. a few hundred per year), and would therefore import several thousand (nearly 7,000) patients from other counties annually. While many local Doctors also oppose the project, it will strain local resources including more congestion on Las Tablas Road, local schools finances, public safety and more. **Issue / Question: How will the county/community deal with overwhelming negative impacts?**
- The project is not focused on helping our county's needs, but is strictly a monetary-driven focus by an out-of-town investor with a "shell operating company" who is motivated to sell the project to a real estate investment trust. Any assertions by the applicant will be at the discretion of the subsequent owner -- likely a Wall Street investment firm able to litigate. **Issue: How does the County hold the applicant to the assurances made and how do they hold any buyer of the project the same? Why haven't health experts selected the best location and size instead of allowing an investor to do so?**

PLEASE OPPOSE THE PROJECT!

Sincerely,

Mike Manchak

Mike Manchak

Templeton resident (Mailing address: P.O. Box 13355, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406)

cc: Holly Phipps, County Planning & Building 805-781-1162 hphipps@co.slo.ca.us
Ramona Hedges, Planning Comm. Secretary, (805) 781-5612 rhedges@co.slo.ca.us
Templeton Area Advisory Group



Fw: Proposed 91 Bed Mental Health Facility by Vizion Health , LLC.

Donna Hernandez to: Ramona Hedges

12/09/2015 01:49 PM

*Donna Hernandez
Administrative Assistant
Records Management
805-788-2947
dhernandez@co.slo.ca.us*

----- Forwarded by Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:49 PM -----

From: Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO
To: Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 12/08/2015 10:21 AM
Subject: Fw: Proposed 91 Bed Mental Health Facility by Vizion Health , LLC.

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/08/2015 10:20 AM -----

From: Marie Roth <mariealise@outlook.com>
To: "hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>, "cmckee@co.slo.ca.us" <cmckee@co.slo.ca.us>, "hmiller@co.slo.ca.us" <hmiller@co.slo.ca.us>, "jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us" <jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us>, "jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us" <jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us>, "shredder@newtimeslo.com" <shredder@newtimeslo.com>, "tstrickland@thetribunenews.com" <tstrickland@thetribunenews.com>, Scott Brennan <scott@accesspublishing.com>, Tom O'Malley <tomomalley@charter.net>, "editor@atascaderonews.com" <editor@atascaderonews.com>, "scott@pasoroblesdailynews.com" <scott@pasoroblesdailynews.com>
Date: 12/07/2015 11:45 AM
Subject: Proposed 91 Bed Mental Health Facility by Vizion Health , LLC.

Greetings planners and officials of SLO County ,

Regarding the proposed 91 bed acute care mental health facility proposed for the community of Templeton; I am in opposition to this particular project and I will do my best within three minutes to illustrate why. My understanding of this subject comes from my own experience, talking with members of the medical & mental health care community as well as attending the Family Orientation Class conducted by Transitions Mental Health Association.

When my daughter was 18, she had a situation where the mobile crisis unit had to take her from Templeton to SLO County Mental Health. Once processed at the facility located at the old General Hospital I was informed that because she was insured she would have to go to a private provider. Of course it is no secret that there are none available in SLO County: Bakersfield or Ventura were the closest choices. Imagine my anxiety level.

Consider, even if 6 to 7, private pay, ***in-county*** patients (about 400 per year) are to be transported to this proposed facility in Templeton on any given weekend. .then who will be occupying those other 84 beds per week? And remember this is a psych treatment facility doing **nothing** for drug, alcohol, medi-cal, homeless or outpatient services for members of our own community. It is my limited understanding that the majority of 5150/5250's, happening mostly on the weekends, are transient or college aged students with an underlying drug or alcohol problem. This facility will do nothing to help them. Our County Mental Health triage center will not be able to send most of their patients to this proposed facility.

Side note- SLO County has a grave shortage of psychiatrists, there are close to none in Templeton.

There is the potential for 3200 people from outside SLO county to be coming to the little town of Templeton for psychiatric treatment. School aged children (1800 of the 3200 total) from outside the county will require Templeton School District provide the educational needs for these kids!? It can't even provide bus service for its current students! How in the world will they be able to meet these requirements without placing a burden upon the students and families who already pay taxes that barely support **THEIR OWN** community?

“We know in working with these children and their family members (that) it's very difficult for families to travel to have to go see them, or figure out how to keep their continued care with their primary care physician here,” said Jill Bolster-White, executive director of the nonprofit Transitions Mental Health Association in San Luis Obispo.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/investigations/article39097128.html> Speaking on sending children outside out county to other facilities such as Bakersfield or Ventura .

Let's look at this in reverse— It ***is*** a burden to make families have to travel long distances while dealing with these types of situations. Why would we make families travel to Templeton from Salinas, Bakersfield, Santa Barbara, Ventura and possibly beyond? If I would have had to travel to Bakersfield or Ventura it would have been a financial & mental disaster for me & my family. I agree that it is best to keep patients near their place of origin. We need to take care of our own people in our own

community!

Additionally, SLO Sheriff states this will cause the need for additional law enforcement and staffing □ .again more burden to the community of Templeton in the form of taxpayer \$\$ as well as the compromised security of their community .

SLO County representatives as well as residents , I challenge you to meet the needs of **our own community** members!

**Support the efforts of Transitions Mental Health in their endeavor to open a care facility in SLO where resources abound .

**Why is General Hospital not considered as a place for this type of facility ? If your answer is that it's isn't profitable □ .then let's take another look at what is being proposed in Templeton , how will that be any more profitable? It won't, but that isn't the point. The owner of this property is seemly becoming more desperate as time goes on to put anything on that property even if it compromises the residential community that surrounds it. It's better suited for an ice skating rink than a psych facility !

This proposal makes zero sense for small community of Templeton ; I urge this commission to deny the project of a Mental Health Facility operated by Vizion health LLC in Templeton , in its entirety .

3 minutes are up....but there's more!

*Vizion Health LLC does not have the experience necessary to operate this facility . This statement in the Tribune from property owners , Harvey and Melanie Billig, is truly ridiculous.

"Mark's approach is not like the biggies in the country but a very local approach," Melanie Billig said.

"Harvey and I don't want a larger corporation — not cookie-cutter like everything else in the country but something that fits the need for SLO County. We tried to find an operator who cares about something like that." Vizion Health, first incorporated in 2011 in Louisiana, where Schneider lives, doesn't have any clients yet, Schneider confirmed."

How in the heck can they make a statement like this if Vizion Health has NO CLIENTS??? Since 2011 no less!? And just because they have "*tried* " to find a corporation that cares about our community does not mean they "*have* " found it. And finally how does this exactly "*fit the needs for SLO County*"?

Read more here:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article39719004.html#storylink=cpy>

*This facility will do NOTHING to help solve the problem of the shortage of Mental Health Care Professionals in our county .

*This type of facility is unprecedented & untested anywhere in the country .

*Proposed to be a non-secure facility meaning patients can come and go at will ? How is that possible when dealing the psychiatric patients ?

*With the imposition of Affordable Health Care Act I propose that SLO County consider making changes to the current County Mental Health Administration to be able to accept AHC insurance since all Americans are now mandated to have coverage according to the law. Would the AHC in essence force the change in the county system due to every American having health care? Let's ask that question.

And finally this does nothing to help our Military Veterans of which there are over 28,000 residing in SLO county .

Again, I ask you to consider helping the needs of our local residents before we invite over 3200 outside residents to SLO County for acute psychiatric treatment .

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Roth, Templeton CA



Fw: Proposed Mental Care Project
Debbie Arnold to: Ramona Hedges
Sent by: **Jennifer Caffee**

12/09/2015 01:42 PM

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:42 PM -----

From: "Murray J. Powell" <murray@dfrios.com>
To: "hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@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>
Date: 11/30/2015 11:29 AM
Subject: Proposed Mental Care Project

Ms. Phipps,

Attached is an opinion piece published in the current edition of New Times magazine discussing our concerns regarding the proposed Templeton Mental Facility. I see that your online project report in the last section titled Correspondence Part 5 presents recent letters from the CEO of French Hospital, the SLO County Commission on Aging and from Dan O'Grady a former SLO County Planning Commissioner, that support the project in essentially its 91 bed design and Templeton location.

Please enter the attached Opinion piece into your system for the record.

Murray Powell
805-434-0707 (Home)



510-91403753 (Cell) SCAN0072.PDF



Fw: Proposed Psychiatric In -Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning
Commission Hearing 12/10/15...Our Story...

Donna Hernandez to: Ramona Hedges

12/09/2015 01:49 PM

Donna Hernandez
Administrative Assistant
Records Management
805-788-2947
dhernandez@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:49 PM -----

From: Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO
To: Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 12/08/2015 12:02 PM
Subject: Fw: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing
12/10/15...Our Story...

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/08/2015 12:02 PM -----

From: "Steve Lieberman" <lieberman.sc@gmail.com>
To: <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/08/2015 12:00 PM
Subject: FW: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing
12/10/15...Our Story...

Good morning Holly,

I wanted to be sure you had this letter that I sent to the BOS.

Thanks,
SL

Steve Lieberman
805.310.7155

From: arobin@co.slo.ca.us [mailto:arobin@co.slo.ca.us]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 9:12 AM
To: Steve Lieberman <lieberman.sc@gmail.com>
Subject: Fw: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing 12/10/15...Our Story...

Hi Steve: Thank you so much for sharing your story with the BOS. I'm happy to hear your son is doing well now.

May I forward your email to the planning commission? They are also collecting testimony ahead of the hearing.

Thanks again, take care,
Anne

Anne Robin, LMFT
Behavioral Health Administrator
SLO County Health Agency/Behavioral Health
805-781-4719

"I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable, to be compassionate. It is, after all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all" - Leo C. Rosten

----- Forwarded by Anne Robin/MHS/COSLO on 11/23/2015 09:10 AM -----

From: Leslie A Brown/Admin/COSLO
To: Jeff Hamm/PH/COSLO@Wings
Cc: Anne Robin/MHS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 11/23/2015 08:47 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing 12/10/15...Our Story...

I shared with Dan and Guy - I am glad their son is healing. I can related to this story (but our son wouldn't respond to treatment while a teen).

Leslie Brown
Administrative Analyst
San Luis Obispo Co.
Administrative Office
Phone: (805) 781-5015
Fax: (805) 781-5023

From: Jeff Hamm/PH/COSLO
To: Anne Robin/MHS/COSLO@Wings, Leslie A Brown/Admin/COSLO@Wings
Date: 11/23/2015 08:15 AM
Subject: Fw: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing 12/10/15...Our Story...

FYI, and to share with others as you see fit.

----- Forwarded by Jeff Hamm/PH/COSLO on 11/23/2015 08:14 AM -----

From: "Steve Lieberman" <lieberman.sc@gmail.com>
To: <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: <jhamm@co.slo.ca.us>, "Nancy Allison" <nancy@nancyallisonhomes.com>
Date: 11/23/2015 08:04 AM
Subject: Proposed Psychiatric In-Patient Hospital - Upcoming Planning Commission Hearing 12/10/15...Our Story...

Good morning,

My name is Steve Lieberman, and I have met all of you over the past several years. Along with my wife Nancy, we are proud parents of two great kids. I recently submitted a letter to the Tribune, sharing "our story of mental illness." Our son became quite sick as a teenager, and the stigma associated with the part of his body that was causing him pain must be beaten down. If his heart was making him sick, folks would have suggested we go to French Hospital as they have a great cardiac unit...even if they lived in the surrounding neighborhood. But, because his brain was making him sick, we had to go to Ventura....I just don't get it; I don't wish this on any parent, and look to you to carefully ponder this project approval. As with Trauma, STEMI (Cardiac) and Stroke specialty care centers, this proposed hospital is just one more specialty care center to help local residents.

I'd really appreciate it if you would take 30 seconds to read the letter we submitted to the Tribune:

When you start a family, I think it's safe to assume that you don't consider the chance that one of your children may develop a mental illness ... at least we didn't.

When our son was 13 years old (seventh grade), he became seriously depressed and anxious, and he considered suicide. Helping our son through mental illness was something that we were completely unprepared for . One day, as Nancy was rushing him to the emergency room, he tried to escape the car on the freeway . We were out of options, and the only psychiatric hospital anywhere close to San Luis Obispo was in Ventura. We hit rock bottom; we watched our son being led into the hospital for a four-day evaluation. We stayed in hotels; we worried about our 9-year-old daughter at home. We felt alone and without hope. Our son is now healthy and enjoying college. He has learned to control his anxiety as best he can. Our family supports a local psychiatric in-patient facility in San Luis Obispo County. We are not a family to be feared by neighbors of a specialty care center; rather, we are the parents of a kid who was sick and needed help — locally.

Read more here:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article41524272.html#storylink=cpy>

Best wishes from our family for a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

SL

Steve Lieberman
805.310.7155

The information in this e-mail is confidential and protected by the physician-patient or psychotherapist-patient privilege. This privilege is not waived by using e-mail as a form of transmission . Only the above-named individual(s) can lawfully receive and read this information. If the person actually receiving this e-mail or any other reader is not the named recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the named recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of the communication is strictly prohibited by law and subject to sanctions. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone, send it back to us, and delete all copies from your computer.



Proposed Templeton Mental Hospital
Kimberley Mulligan to: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

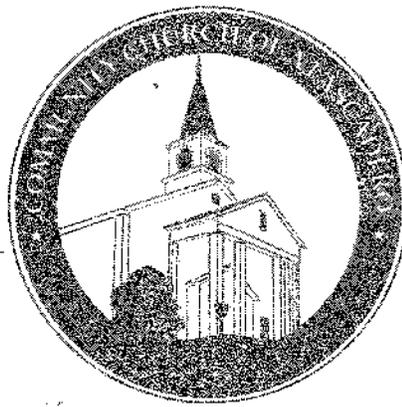
12/08/2015 09:34 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I are both vehemently opposed to the approval of the proposed Templeton Mental Hospital. We have no local police force, and released mental patients could easily be wandering in the area. We do not have a substantial enough need in this county for such a facility.

Thank you,

Kim Milligan
Resident near Law Tablas



Date: 25 October 2015

RECEIVED

NOV - 4 2015

To: Ms. Debbie Arnold
District 5 County Supervisor

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

Dear Ms. Arnold,

I write in support of the Templeton 90-bed behavioral health hospital. There is huge need in SLO County, as many as 138 for the current population. The Templeton facility would go a long way in meeting our current need. And the facts that the location is already zoned for medical and hospital use and centrally located for Atascadero and Paso Robles, as well as that the behavioral health hospital will have proximity to Twin Cities Hospital and other medical facilities, make this the best possible location.

I understand that there are some people who are fearful of having a mental health facility near them. But imagine how much healthier – and safer – we would be as a community if there was health care and support locally available? We assume it's about other people – outsiders, strangers, "crazies". But it is our families – our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters, and ourselves. Having a local mental health facility makes as much sense – and is as needed – as having a hospital that can help us with other acute emergencies such as strokes and broken legs.

Please decide in favor of the behavioral health hospital as planned in Templeton: we have the need, the location is right.

Thank you.

Rev. Heather J. Branton, pastor
Community Church of Atascadero, United Church of Christ
5850 Rosario Ave.
Atascadero, CA 93422

New Times / Commentary

The following articles were printed from New Times [newtimeslo.com] - Volume 30, Issue 18

Share:   

Beware of unintended consequences

Templeton mental care facility--the real story

BY MURRAY POWELL

The landowner-developer (a Carmel, Calif., resident) and promoters of the proposed massive 91-bed Templeton Acute Care Mental Hospital have conducted a misleading publicity campaign to win the support of SLO County residents. They claim that the facility is designed to treat "your friends, neighbors, and family members living in our community." They are supported by the SLO County Health Agency, the SLO *Tribune*, and a large majority of members of the SLO County mental services industry.

We agree that acute mental care services should be established in SLO County. We support all levels of mental care services and are very concerned about the quality and availability of mental services in our county and in the state. However, a reasonably-sized acute care facility designed to treat primarily SLO County residents is what should be established in the SLO South County area where 65 percent of the county resides and where 90 percent of private and public SLO County agency mental health patients and other support services operate.

We question the size of the proposed facility. It is designed to draw at least 3,000 of its patients (85 to 90 percent) from areas outside of SLO County. This influx of non-residents will place extreme demands on many SLO County services.

SLO residents are generally misinformed regarding the nature of services the facility will provide to our county's mentally ill.

Here is the real story. SLO patients are forced to travel to institutions in other areas for acute care hospitalization. Existing data indicates that an estimated 700 to 830 SLO County residents will need these services each year. These numbers are supported by the National Institute of Health that says that three-tenths of 1 percent of the population requires acute care hospitalization each year. The SLO *Tribune* reported on the front page of its four-day article on this issue that 714 SLO residents were transferred in 2014 to other county facilities according to a state Health Agency.

So what's the problem with the Templeton 91-bed facility. There are many. Here's a few.

- The developer claims that this facility will be an "at will" voluntary facility. We believe this will exclude all "involuntary" acute care patients that are treated by the SLO County Health Agency which claims to refer approximately 275 to 350 acute care patients a year to other county facilities. This leaves about 350 to 425 voluntary SLO residents that may be admitted to the proposed facility.
- The facility is designed to serve thousands of patients a year. Not 400 or 500. Simple math shows that at least 3,600 patients a year will be admitted to fully utilize the facility, assuming an average nine-day treatment period. That's a turnover rate of 40 times a year. Accordingly, 3,100 to 3,200 patients a year will flow into our county from areas throughout California and beyond.
- The developer claims that only "voluntary" patients will be admitted with an average treatment period of five to eight days and a typical maximum stay of 10 days. These limited treatment periods are often determined by available insurance coverage offered by private carriers and Obamacare. That's not much time to cure acute mental illness problems.

- It gets worse. Adult patients (21 to 64 years old) that are on Medi-Cal health plans will not be accepted for treatment in this facility. Various estimates indicate that 20 percent to 30 percent of adults in the county are on Medi-Cal plans. Youth and elderly (over 64 years) Medi-Cal patients can be admitted. Adults make up 65 percent of the population.
- The developer, representatives, and supporters have made various misleading statements in SLO *Tribune* opinion pieces, in written documents to the county Planning Department, and to the public in a mailer sent to Templeton residents and in two Templeton Community meetings attended by several hundred residents.
- They claim that discharged patients “must be returned to their residence of origin,” and, “They will not be released onto the street of Templeton.” We believe this is a false statement; voluntary “at will” patients are free to go or to stay in the area or anywhere in the county.
- They claim that the facility is secure. We believe voluntary “at will” patients are free to leave the facility at any time day or night.
- They claim that the facility “is not in a residential area.” A misleading statement. The facility’s rear property line is shared with a 41-home development currently under construction and is surrounded by hundreds of homes within short walking distance from the facility.
- They claim that the need for this facility is “well documented” by the county’s own departments and commissions. Anne Robbin, the SLO County Behavior Health Department administrator, spoke at a meeting that I attended, acknowledging that the county has no reliable data to support the size and nature of services that it needs to treat acute mental illness. The SLO Health Agency in responses to several Public Records Act requests for patient service numbers stated that “the information is not available” or “the information may be available ... but not in an existing document or report.”
- They quote a California Hospital Association claim that we need “50 inpatient beds per 100,000 population” or 138 beds; The SLO *Tribune* reported that it was unable to verify the accuracy of this claim with any other reliable mental health sources; 138 beds with a nine-day patient turn ratio would provide treatment to 5,600 patients a year.
- The developer implies that this facility will relieve SLO County’s Health Agency mental health service load. In reality, this operation will significantly increase demands on the county’s health agency services by referring patients that are no longer able to pay for facility services that require additional inpatient care. Acute mental illness is not cured in 10 days. The county operated Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF Unit) is frequently overwhelmed with patients that exceed the unit’s 16-bed legal limit.

What we support:

- A 15-bed facility that will treat approximately 600 SLO County residents a year.
- Locate the 15-bed facility in the South SLO County area where 90 percent of mental health care support services exist and where 65 percent of SLO County resides. Templeton has no mental health support services.
- Establish a second 16-bed SLO County Health Agency operated and funded Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF Unit) to treat involuntary committed children, adolescents, elderly, and adult Medi-Cal patients not qualified for treatment at the proposed Templeton facility.

Please attend the Dec. 10 Planning Commission hearing regarding this project.

Murray Powell is an active member of the Facebook community, Proposed Templeton Mental Hospital—The Real Story. Email his group opposed to development of the facility at info@intempleton.com. Send comments or responses to the editor at clanham@newtimesslo.com.

178 Edgewater Lane
Paso Robles, CA 93446
Nov. 16, 2015

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2015

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

Debbie Arnold, Chair
County Board of Supervisors
Rm. D430, County Govt. Ctr.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Ms. Arnold:

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

To Our Board of Supervisors,

December 5, 2015

There is so much written, both pro and con, over the development of the Behavioral Health Hospital, that I feel there is little left to say other than this is a facility which is so desperately needed for our county.

There are those who argue that greed is driving this project and that homes in the surrounding area will suffer a loss in value. Yes, it is a privately funded project, but as we are all too painfully aware, public funds are just not available for a mental health facility of this dimension. The myth that home values will plummet is negated by reports from realtors in similar communities that home appraisals and sales remain constant. Other communities throughout California with behavioral health hospitals do not document any problems with patients who seek the services offered as they are voluntary, insured and seek support, i.e. Vista del Mar in Ventura.

Ian Parkinson, our highly esteemed sheriff, has signed off, saying that he sees no law enforcement impediments to the project. Jeff Hamm, Director of SLO's Health Department has also underwritten the mental health hospital, saying that it will offer not only much needed interventions, but will service a population, children and adolescents, that the PFH is not equipped to best handle. There will be no associated costs to Templeton Unified: see California Education Code Sec. 48206.3, defining ADA. Children and adolescents will have a stay of no longer than 10 days, in line with noted education code. In addition, the League of Women voters has publically voiced support as has the American Association of University Women.

We all know that intervention is financially and morally a much better proposition than waiting until a mental health problem becomes so severe that extended, and expensive, treatment becomes necessary. Finally, at least 300 or more will find employment as a result of this much needed, thus increasing community stability, not threatening it.

This is a plea from the heart; I have a family member who has been diagnosed with a severe mental health disorder and if we had had a facility like that which is proposed, her frustrating, confusing and painful experiences might well have not led to several suicide attempts. We were unable to support her as hospitalization was several hundred miles away, a situation which only increased our family distress and her suffering. We know that hospitalization does not offer a cure, however many of these disorders and their symptoms do go into remission with the proper psychiatric attention, treatment and medication, which is what this hospital offers.

Please don't let the fear tactics of a few or stigma towards those with mental health issues deter you from making the best decision for our community.

Respectfully,

Mardi Geredes
Atascadero

P.S. Three of the best sources of fact-based information as published in the Tribune are by Cal Poly Professor Emeritus Zaf Iqbal; a four-part investigative report beginning October 11th by Tonya Strickland, Tribune reporter; and Tribune editorial, "Plan for mental health hospital would fill a void in county."



Templeton Mental Hospital
Geoff Brown to: rhedges

12/09/2015 02:03 PM

My wife and I are "opposed" to the location of the proposed Templeton Mental Hospital. We believe there is undoubtedly a need for such a facility in the county, but Templeton does not have either the infrastructure or necessary law enforcement support. During the morning and evening rush hours, Las Tablas is currently a "parking lot". This is without the 40+ homes they are building near the proposed Mental Hospital site, the approx. 100 homes in progress at the north end of Main Street, the 40+ homes in progress adjacent to the 101 highway, nor the 120+ water meters available to build on the two large parcels along the north side of Las Tablas.

It would certainly make more sense for a mental health facility such as this to be located in San Luis Obispo proper where there already exists some form of mental health facilities.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey and Lynda Brown
Homeowners
920 Rosebay Way
Templeton, California 93465
805-434-3763
cambriabrown@att.net

Sent from my iPad



Fw: Templeton Psychiatric Facility _Community Approval Input
County of SLO Planning Dept . to: Ramona Hedges
Sent by: Alex Rosen

12/09/2015 09:45 AM

Hi Ramona, does this go to you? What about other questions for the planning commission, do they go to you as well ?

Thanks,

Alex

----- Forwarded by Alex Rosen/Planning/COSLO on 12/09/2015 09:44 AM -----

From: "enchantedoak" <enchantedoak@sbcglobal.net>
To: <planning@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/08/2015 02:57 PM
Subject: Templeton Psychiatric Facility _Community Approval Input

To: San Luis Obispo Planning Commissioners
Re: Approval of proposed private psychiatric facility in Templeton
From: Chris Weygandt Alba, mental-illness expert, Templeton CA:

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Don't be misled by fear, from an isolated enclave of self-serving homeowners without a shred of medical education in brain disorders, who imagine a "ludicrous" private psychiatric facility in Templeton will discharge some psychotic "out-of-towners" lurking madly in their landscaped yards.

In fact, a compassionate community in the North County wholeheartedly desires local access to private psychiatric acute care. In churches, neighborhood forums, and respectful dialogues, we have scores of knowledgeable people, experienced in psychiatric crisis, speaking out on behalf of suffering neighbors – actively SUPPORTING a private-patient psychiatric facility on Las Tablas Road.

Who speaks for *our community* ? For multitudes who *don't* speak or *can't* speak and aren't heard at all? Not those vocal few homeowners near Las Tablas Road – with no medical education in mental illness, no experience in psychiatric crisis – only ignorant fear of their self-styled "ludicrous" scenarios.

Let's ask our greatest resource and largest population—our burgeoning generations of elders—and the Baby Boomer seniors who are parenting their parents as well as their children and frequently their grandchildren too.

Too bad our elders often can't speak for themselves—because America's soaring rate of crippling dementia is stripping their brains of language while it shreds their dignity.

Who speaks for loved ones dying the slow agony of Alzheimer's—the most rampant brain disease in America? Citizens of Templeton itself are crying for help, a safe room in a trained facility—but *no room is available for them* , because only ONE facility exists in the North County and it suffers a shortage of beds.

Then please pass the mike to thousands of senior citizens in SLO County with clinical depression, the American *epidemic* of suicidal Baby Boomers—oh, except they too can't speak, because they're paralyzed by despair or planning their suicides.

Let me speak, then, for *eight* dead friends in my little sphere, with gifted brains afflicted recently by fatal illness in happy SLO County. Contributing citizens of our community, their medical insurance was useless in this county offering no private, inpatient treatment—and so, eight good neighbors suffered unspeakable deaths:

They fell upon railroad tracks and off cliffs, and choked on vomit in bed, or lost everything and overdosed, or hung themselves at home, for loved ones to find—and for their children to do likewise in teenage misery.

My extended family is a lifelong contributing part of this community. We've built schools, churches, libraries, homes, orchards, and industries. We've worked in dirt, grease, blood, and asbestos, providing meeting halls, classrooms, volunteer labor, almonds, meat, heat, and cool air—and died without medical treatment for brain disease.

My parents were Paso Robles Bearcats for life. They helped build a school, a neighborhood, and a playground for the community. My father crawled through fiberglass and asbestos in this county, giving people comfortable air-conditioning until cancer killed his brain at age 52.

My mother, the Bearcat May Queen of 1949, was driven from her own town at 79 and 80 pounds, when she suffered an Alzheimer's crisis at my Templeton home. Her hometown had no room for her in a skilled treatment center, offering only closed doors in a single facility—so she was forced from her familiar home to a strange place elsewhere. The trauma triggered the final stage of the disease, killing her in four months.

And I endure lifelong periodic major depression, even while my husband and I support our community—we volunteer, use local businesses, raise a family of self-supporting citizens, and promote multiple non-profits to help our neighbors.

Four times in 17 years, I've gone hundreds of miles away from home to find treatment at in-patient, private-care facilities. I've had to leave my family and support network for weeks at a time, to fight for my life with distant psychiatric care.

Distance from treatment interferes with recovery from medical crises in the human brain.

Distance isolates fragile people from their family support system. Distance prevents families from participating in the long and difficult recovery from devastating illness.

We are overwhelmingly an older population of private means, already isolated geographically from sophisticated medical treatment centers. Our community needs care, and our county needs to provide care for our people.

Please approve this private psychiatric facility in Templeton.

Sincerely,

Chris Weygandt Alba – mental-illness expert, citizen of Templeton, resident of San Luis Obispo County



Fw: Templeton's Almost Daily News - Calendar Digest
Debbie Arnold to: Ramona Hedges
Sent by: Jennifer Caffee

12/09/2015 12:08 PM

Please see Nanette Fisher's comments in regards to the Templeton Behavioral Health Facility Project below.

Jen Caffee for Supervisor Arnold
Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 12/09/2015 12:07 PM -----

From: "Soaring Eagle Press" <nanette@soaringeaglepress.com>
To: <Undisclosed-Recipient; >
Date: 12/08/2015 11:06 PM
Subject: Templeton's Almost Daily News - Calendar Digest

Soaring Eagle Press e-Edition
Templeton's "Almost Daily" News

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th

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- **Regarding the Behavioral Health Hospital** – After a great deal of research and soul searching, I have found that I cannot support the project. TAAG's report and recommendation to the Planning Commission lays out excellent reasons for the project to be turned down – reasons that I agree with. But the most compelling reason for turning the project down is its potentially devastating impact on Templeton schools – the potential to drain a small district's budget and greatly hamper its ability to continue to offer the quality education currently available to ALL Templeton students. And as the school district goes, so goes the town and the greater Templeton area. After hearing the school district attorney speak on the laws regarding the school district's responsibilities toward students who will be served by the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital, learning both the logistics and the costs of serving students in the hospital, understanding that the hospital has the potential to serve somewhere in the neighborhood of 2/3 of the number of students currently enrolled in Templeton schools on an annual basis, and understanding the underlying budgetary realities, it would be negligent of me to support this project. And it has been highly negligent of those members of the school board who refused to take a stand on this issue when their primary responsibility is to protect the quality of education in our schools. Folks, this is NOT a county issue. This is NOT a government issue. This is a private business deal, proposed for private property to first and foremost benefit the owners of the property and secondly the investors in the project. By the very standards outlined by TAAG and the overwhelming evidence of potential harm to our school district, this project should not be approved or built in Templeton.

As always, please share this information with your friends and neighbors throughout the almost 100 square miles of the greater Templeton area .

To subscribe to Templeton’s “Almost Daily” , please send a request for a subscription to the Soaring Eagle Press Editor (see email address below signature), and include the email address your copy of the paper will be delivered to in the body of your email .

Thank you,

Nanette Fisher
Editor/Publisher
Soaring Eagle Press
PO Box 132
Templeton, CA 93465

(805) 674-1447
nanette@soaringeaglepress.com
www.soaringeaglepress.com

“If we can’t get it right at the local , grass roots level, how in the world can we expect to get



it right at the county, state, and federal levels?” nanette fisher 12.6.15.CALENDAR DIGEST.pdf



Fw: We need more beds available for behavioral health patients in our area .
Donna Hernandez to: Ramona Hedges 12/09/2015 01:51 PM

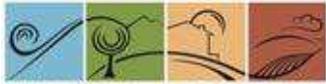
*Donna Hernandez
Administrative Assistant
Records Management
805-788-2947
dhernandez@co.slo.ca.us*

----- Forwarded by Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO on 12/09/2015 01:51 PM -----

From: Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO
To: Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Date: 12/07/2015 08:33 AM
Subject: Fw: We need more beds available for behavioral health patients in our area .

For Billig:

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



PLANNING & BUILDING
-COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO-

976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/07/2015 08:32 AM -----

From: Karen <quezadakar@gmail.com>
To: Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/05/2015 11:36 AM
Subject: We need more beds available for behavioral health patients in our area .

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department
976 Osos Street #200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300
Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,
Karen Quezada

Sent from my iPad