

December 16, 2015

Chair and Members, Planning Commission
San Luis Obispo County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Commissioners:

**RE: Proposed Behavioral Health Hospital - Templeton
Application by Dr. Harvey and Melanie Billig
Assessor parcel no. 040-280-056**

INTRODUCTION

We have been residents of Templeton since 1989 and strongly support the development of county mental health services. Our population in need of inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care is greatly underserved. No one can question the importance of, and need for, expanding specialized care in this area.

Bruce served as Training Officer at a 1,050-bed acute care psychiatric hospital in Los Angeles, where he was active in the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), a patient advocacy group. Kris was the Unit Secretary at French Hospital's psychiatric unit in San Luis Obispo from 1988-90.

CONCERNS

We have two concerns about the proposed 91-bed Behavioral Health Hospital going forward.

FIRST, Vizion, the developer's out-of-state management organization, appears to have no depth of staffing or current operations. As proposed, Mr. Mark Schneider, the designated CEO, would manage the facility in absentia. While he is well-qualified in the nursing field, we believe the county deserves better than a management group which is figuratively 'under construction'. Searching through the Vizion website for detailed operations plans, we were unable to locate any service-descriptive experience to support management of a complex facility as proposed.

SECOND, the County Planning Department staff report on this facility describes two categories of behavioral facilities: the first taking involuntary patients and being locked at all times, and the second (which applies to the proposed facility) accepting only voluntary patients and being precluded from locking to prevent exit. Patients in the adult unit could potentially leave the facility against medical advice.

We are concerned about safety and security impacts of the adult unit's status for both the patients (who are by definition a vulnerable, special needs population) and the public. Moreover, the facility as proposed is very near new residential development just south of Las Tablas Road.

DISCUSSION

Our concerns are not simply about whether there are enough law enforcement or other resources to manage a potential incident caused by a released patient, but by how the presence of the hospital would permanently change the character of Templeton. Far from assuming a 'NIMBY' position, we join with

many Templeton residents in asking you to consider if this is the best and most effective long-term solution to the county's pressing need for mental health services.

Our small community is ill-suited to receive and support a facility of the proposed size and scope. As noted by the local planning advisory group TAAG, the building design and location would generate impacts from density and crowding at the site which make such an intensive use unsuitable for Templeton. The various 'will serve' commitments you have received from supporting agencies are not intended, and cannot, address these and other unplanned consequences and social changes the hospital, at the proposed location, would inevitably bring.

PROPOSAL

A number of alternate locations and service models have been identified in letters and citizen statements presented to your Commission. The feasibility of bringing into service existing or expanded clinics and psychiatric units, nearer than Templeton to services and the needy population itself, must, in our view, be carefully considered before approving the proposed facility.

Along these lines, we enthusiastically support Commissioner Irving's December 10, 2015 directive to staff for a comprehensive survey of unused county-owned parcels which may be suitable for construction of a new facility at a more appropriate location. Additional amenities for patients including open space for grounds, rather than the very confining box-style facility which is before you for approval, would be better accomplished at venues other than the one proposed. We urge your Commission to identify and evaluate the long-term benefits vs. the impacts of the proposed hospital on the local community.

We very much appreciate your consideration of our concerns and proposed alternative approaches. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Bruce P. Baird



Kristen L. Baird
1457 Marbella Lane
Templeton, CA 93465

December 19, 2015

Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Dear Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors of San Luis Obispo County -
On Thursday, December 10, 2015, I submitted the attached letter in person to members of the Planning Commission and via e-mail to the Board of Supervisors.

Due to my teaching schedule, I was not able to stay to attend the meeting about the proposed psychiatric hospital in Templeton, California. As my previous letter indicated, I am a proponent of this facility.

Since this item has been continued to a hearing for January 14, 2016, I have a simple suggestion for those in receipt of this letter and for members in the public who may be against the proposed facility.

Since there are approximately three weeks before this item is on the agenda again and given that many people travel out of the area during the holidays, I strongly encourage people to physically drive by existing mental health facilities.

All one needs to do is to complete an online search of mental health facilities and people will be amazed at how many residential treatment centers exist in established hospitals and neighborhoods.

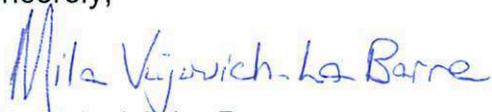
At the hospitals in Los Angeles at UCLA Medical Center, Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara and Sharp Hospital in San Diego, the psychiatric wing is simply another wing in the hospital. The wings are under very strict security for the protection and confidentiality of the patients and the public. At Vista del Mar in Ventura, the facility is at the top of the hill in a somewhat affluent neighborhood, also with appropriate security measures.

I am not aware of the protocol for a tour of a facility given matters of confidentiality, but I suspect that if you introduced yourself as a governmental official and explained the situation, you could get a tour of the facility and/or meet with a member of the hospital administration.

People who are in Templeton who are fearful of the impact of a facility near them should do the same. With education will come acceptance of the positive impact that a facility in our County will have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mila Vujovich-La Barre
650 Skyline Drive
San Luis Obispo, California 93405

December 10, 2015

Dear Planning Commissioners of the County of San Luis Obispo -

It is my understanding that the proposed facility for mental health treatment in Templeton will be discussed at today's meeting.

Due to my teaching schedule, I may not be able to present public testimony in person, so I am sending this brief message in hope that you are able to review it.

As a public school teacher for over three decades and as a parent of a child whose is permanently disabled due to mental health issues, I am hoping that the facility in Templeton will be approved. This treatment facility would be a huge blessing for many patients and their families.

As a teacher, I have witnessed the trials and tribulations of families that have had to deal with teens who have been in need of treatment for depression, suicidal ideation, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Families have had to seek help at facilities in Ventura, Los Angeles, Stanford, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Fresno. The distance to transport the child with mental health issues is traumatizing for the patient and family members. Also, the distance does not promote family unity and ongoing support.

As a parent, I speak from experience. Our oldest daughter was born at 1 pound 14 ounces, three months premature. She was airlifted to the neonatal unit in 1989 and stayed there for three months. The brain matures during the last three months in the womb, so some physicians have indicated that her severe prematurity may have contributed to her current, disabled condition. At the age of 5, that same child experienced a sexual assault. During her teenage years, her world and our world began to crumble due to situations surrounding her fragile and failing mental health.

With her placement in facilities in Ventura, Stanford, UCLA and Santa Barbara, it caused a significant stress on the integrity of our family structure. It was not unusual during her hospitalizations for me to leave work after at the end of my teaching day, drive to UCLA or Stanford for visitation hours and drive home in time to teach the next day. Her hospitalizations at distant locations caused me to miss a total of four months of work.

The distance involved in seeking treatment and support for our daughter's mental health condition contributed significantly to the dissolution of my 27-year marriage. My younger daughter, now a thriving college graduate, "lost" a sister and had to cope with that loss with little support.

A facility in Templeton would allow families in our area to seek treatment for children and adults in crisis. It would allow local therapists and doctors to treat patients and communicate with the families and/or loved ones on an ongoing basis.

I would like to calm the fears of residents and state that most children and adults with mental health issues are humbled and often are in need of food, housing and emotional support. They are

not a threat to the community. In addition, most people who are transported in an emergency mental health crisis situation are taken to a regular hospital. When transported to a mental health facility, they are transported as discretely and quietly as possible.

Please vote in favor of this facility with empathy for those who suffer from mental illness and those that love them.

Thank you.

Mila Vujovich-La Barre

Mila Vujovich-La Barre

650 Skyline Drive

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

milavu@hotmail.com

805-441-5818



Tammy Clauzei Hillicis

We need a facility in this County. The proposed facility in Templeton is too large for the small community. I am thinking there might be another plot of land this facility might be a better fit for. If not I feel that the facility should be of smaller proportion, equal to the size of the needs of the county. I also would like to know the credentials of the past works of the people that would be running the facility. Thank you

Monday at 10:14 PM · Like · Reply



Templeton Area Advisory Group

Please direct these comments to the slo county planning commission asap

Monday at 11:32 PM · Like · Reply

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:

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. There is no facility of this kind in our county and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the treatment they need.

I am a resident of North County and when my son was in need of extended behavioral health care this past October there were no resources in our area to help. He ended up having to be admitted to a hospital in Santa Rosa. Even though it is 5 hours away, it was the nearest one with an open bed! This put an unbelievable amount of stress and worry on not only him but also the whole family. Because of the distance we were unable to be there often for support or help with his treatment plan. It was quite devastating experience for him and us. Not to mention the financial cost of travel. It is so important for these patients to have as much help and support within their community as possible!

Ann Robin, San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Administrator reported recently that she was unable to serve more than 350 patients last year, many of them children. These patients had to be sent out of county to treatment facilities. When patients have to travel, the move presents both a challenge to those providing care and a strain on family members. It is very difficult for family members and loved ones to be part of treatment plans in facilities that may be in LA, Santa Rosa, San Mateo, Ventura or Santa Barbara.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime and will need to seek help. We presently have 16 beds in our county to serve a population of 270,000 people. This is clearly not enough. We have an opportunity to build a facility in our county to serve the needs of the people who live here and need help. Please do everything you can to help this hospital get built!

Sincerely,
Alicia Ley
10555 Colorado rd.
Atascadero, Ca. 93422

leyfam@charter.net



Templeton Mental Hospital

Felimar Osuna

to:

rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

12/29/2015 09:38 AM

[Hide Details](#)

From: Felimar Osuna <kapple12@live.com>

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

Dear SLO County Planning Commission,

We received a notice that there are plans for mental hospital to be built on Las Tablas Rd. We are in firm opposition to this. As parents and a member of this small community, we have a concern for the children. We see children playing and riding bikes in front of the houses in our neighborhood and we feel that if a mental hospital was built we would be putting the safety of our children at risk. There are other places that this mental hospital could be built. We have several schools all around Templeton-Vineyard Elementary, Templeton Elementary, Templeton Middle, and Templeton High School and we also have nursing homes in our community and we don't feel that building a mental hospital in this environment would be appropriate. We are very concerned with the well being of of children and those in our community. The hospital would be surrounded by residential areas, surrounded by families with children. This isn't safe.

Sincerely,
Felimar



Fw: District 1 - Contact Us (response #424)
Vicki Shelby to: Ramona Hedges

01/04/2016 11:37 AM

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

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful " - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been " - Mark Twain

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 01/04/2016 11:37 AM -----

From: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO
To: Ramona Hedges/Planning/COSLO
Date: 12/02/2015 04:50 PM
Subject: FW: District 1 - Contact Us (response #424)

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

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/02/2015 04:49:59 PM-----

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

From : "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To : "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc :
Sent on : 12/02 02:51:34 PM PST
Subject : District 1 - Contact Us (response #424)

District 1 - Contact Us (response #424)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:District 1 - Contact Us
URL:
<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/District-1/District1ContactUs.htm>

Submission Time/Date:12/2/2015 2:50:54 PM

Survey Response

Name:

Marcus Smith

Telephone Number:

805-835-3985

Email address:

tempmarc@charter.net

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):

Proposed Templeton Psychiatric Hospital... I urge you to make sure this proposal is kept out of our small town community. We do not have enough law enforcement or fire to handle such a facility. The recent San Bernardino shooting is too close to home. The citizens that live around this proposed facility should not have to live in fear of a possible repeat incident. Can you guarantee with 100% certainty that this type of shooting would not happen at Templeton's proposed psychiatric hospital. I think not. Building such a hospital will only increase the chances of such an event. Thank you for addressing my concerns.

EACH SUPERVISOR
RECEIVED COPY

RECEIVED

December 19, 2015

DEC 21 2015

Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

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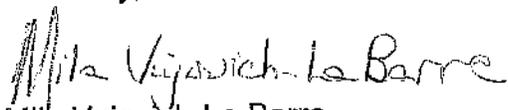
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mila Vujovich-La Barre".

Mila Vujovich-La Barre
650 Skyline Drive
San Luis Obispo, California 93405

December 10, 2015

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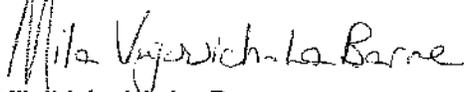
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not a threat to the community. In addition, most people who are transported in an emergency mental health crisis situation are taken to a regular hospital. When transported to a mental health facility, they are transported as discretely and quietly as possible.

Please vote in favor of this facility with empathy for those who suffer from mental illness and those that love them.

Thank you.



Mila Vujovich-La Barre

650 Skyline Drive

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

milavu@hotmail.com

805-441-5818



Fw: Behavioral Health Hospital Facility & Assisted Living Facility
Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges

01/06/2016 04:29 PM

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162

<http://www.sloplanning.org/>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 01/06/2016 04:29 PM -----

From: Tina Wysong <tliane8@gmail.com>
To: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 01/06/2016 03:12 PM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital Facility & Assisted Living Facility

I am writing this letter for many reasons. One of the reasons I personally know someone that is mentally ill. He has never hurt anyone and has never been in trouble. Was in county mental health for a short time because there isn't space for everyone ! He is now in a private facility in Atascadero but not receiving any treatment! He will die if he does not get any treatment!!!he has went from a 6'2 210 lbs to 110 lbs !!! My Granddaughter lost her Grandmother due to mental illness she committed suicide .. She was so depressed due to lack of treatment!! She was one of the nicest most humble people you would ever want to meet ! My daughter is a psychologist and works with disabled people in the mental health field . This facility is so needed in our county believe me !!! Mental health has plagued this nation each year 61,500,000 Americans experience a mental health disorder. And 100 billion dollars are spent on disability, substance abuse and more 70- 90% of those individuals with mental illnesses saw improvement in their symptoms after receiving treatment. Our current facility is not enough for this county ... My mother passed away 2 yrs ago we had to put her in assisted living and was on a waiting list for 4 mos. she passed in the mean time while waiting for a bed to open . This county is growing and of course these facilities would be a big opportunity to help prevent tragedies. Thank you for your time !!! Tina Wysong

Sent from Tina Wysongs IPAD



Fw: Re Proposed Mental Health Facility , Templeton
Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges

01/06/2016 02:08 PM

Hi,

This is for the Billig Project .

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162

<http://www.sloplanning.org/>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 01/06/2016 02:07 PM -----

From: "Joy Gustafson" <joygustafson@tcsn.net>
To: <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 01/06/2016 01:49 PM
Subject: Re Proposed Mental Health Facility , Templeton

Attention Members of the Planning Meeting December 10, 2010, item #19
Please see the correspondence attached at the end of this communication
below.

I will be attending the Planning Meeting tomorrow . My concerns are :
***Where can I sign a petition in favor of the proposed Mental Health
facility?

1. Where are the "over 1,000 petitions" mentioned by the opponents to this proposal?
2. Are they verifiable residents of the local area in North County , especially residents of Templeton ?
3. How many others beside myself "signed in" at the November Wednesday evening Informational Meeting held at Templeton Middle School in November without realizing they were signing in as "Supporters of the Opposition"?
4. Is the opposition taking into consideration the benefits to the community?

5. Is the "fear factor" producing the "Not in my backyard" mentality, blinding them to:

- A. The benefits for our friends & neighbors who want & need this type of support in their lives with trained professionals who can help them through a difficult time of life.
- B. The financial benefits to the community which come with trained professionals.
- C. The tax benefits which result as income is improved.
- D. The benefits of having a County Mental Health facility within the reach of:
Twin Cities Hospital, many other Professional Medical help and resources to facilitate recovery.

Thank you for hearing us out,
Joy & Lee Gustafson

January 10, 2015

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

To whom it concerns:

The purpose of this letter is to bring up concerns regarding the impact the Proposed Behavioral Mental Health Hospital would have on the Templeton Unified School District. I am a retired high school teacher from Templeton High School. I have also taught Special Education grades K-5, and 9-12 in Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo. I would respectfully ask the Planning Commission to consider some of the following points when making their decision to either approve or reject this project:

- At an average stay of 10 days, this facility will hold 3,690 patients a year. At an average of 7 days - 4,745 patients a year. The project director has stated that up to half the facility can be configured to accommodate children and adolescents. This would mean anywhere between **1,845** to **2,372** students under the age of 18 could be treated yearly at this facility.
- Templeton Unified School District currently has about **2,200** students total in K- 12th grades.
- The TUSD School Board requested legal counsel from Mr. Dan Osher regarding their responsibility in providing educational services for these patients. On February 26, 2015 they were told: "All school aged students, regardless of disability who are admitted to the Proposed Mental Hospital are deemed to meet temporary resident status and are the full responsibility of the TUSD School District." "Home districts are not required to reimburse TUSD for their services."
- He explained that parents of the hospitalized student are urged to contact the School District, but it is not a requirement and does not absolve the district from the responsibility of providing educational services. Mr. Osher said that the school district and hospital would have to establish lines of communication and procedures so students are provided services in a timely fashion. For Special Education students, there is an additional legal requirement called "Child Find" whereby school districts must actively seek out students needing special education services and then provide those services.
- The Special Education director for Templeton Unified School District explained that the district must follow the instructions of hospitalized students' home IEP (individual education plan) and that a certain percentage will require one-on-one aides. She expressed staffing concerns for finding personnel to work with patients as they don't have enough aides for enrolled students.
- For adolescent students without a Special Education designation, multiple teachers may be required to provide instruction in a variety of subject areas.

- The estimated \$86,000 school fees the builder is required to pay Templeton Unified School District cannot be used for reimbursing teaching expenses as explained by Aaron Asplund, TUSD financial director in a letter dated January 4, 2016 to the School Board. He says the fees can only be used for construction of facilities caused by increased enrollment. (See attached letter)
- The operator of the facility, Mark Schneider in a letter to Dr. Koski (superintendent of TUSD) on April 27, 2015 stated that they would pay the cost of educating students who's hospital stay is over 14 days. In the next paragraph, he states "the maximum stay at our crisis center is 14 days". This in effect, states that they will not pay any educational costs.
- I would like the Planning Commission to consider some numbers as they relate to school aged students in our county needing psychiatric inpatient beds compared to the numbers the proposed Mental Hospital could draw to our area.
 - Currently in CA there are 12 counties with child/adolescent psychiatric beds. All are in either the Bay area or LA/San Diego - the other 46 counties do not have facilities. Because this facility would be the only one admitting children and adolescents between SF and LA, the number of students admitted could be quite large. (See attached map)
 - As a result of Public Record Requests; the average number of school aged psychiatric patients in SLO County needing transfers to other facilities was reported as **118** (Ann Robbins SLO BHD) or **82** (Jeff Hamm CountyHealth Agency) over the last three years. There is **no data available** for school aged private patients needing referral to other facilities.
 - Even if this number was increased by half to account for private school aged patients, our county needs are likely between 100 and 150 a year - not in the thousand(s) category. All the rest of the students would come from the adjoining counties. An influx of so many students needing educational services could easily overwhelm a small school district like Templeton with both personnel and fiscal demands. The enrolled students' education could easily become impacted by the demand for educating so many additional students throughout the year.

To summarize - TUSD is completely responsible for educating school aged patients, the building fees cannot be used to reimburse the district for educational services, some patients will need teachers for multiple subject areas, the operator will not be making educational contributions and some special education students will require additional personnel. In considering the appropriateness of this facility for our small community, you can predict the impact of having to educate so many students from out of the area will put a huge burden on our school district.

Thank you for considering these points as you make your decision.

Sincerely,

Crystal Kidwell

P.S. The copies of letters and the map are being enclosed in the hard copy being sent to your office.

January 6, 2016

Letter to the Editor:

On behalf of Transitions-Mental Health Association, I'd like to voice our support for the Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton. Our staff and supporters who attended the Public Hearing on December 10 were heartened by the brave stories shared by so many folks living with mental illness, most notably a 19 year old formerly suicidal SLO resident. His story and others show the real human side of this disease and reinforce that those with lived experience of mental illness aren't criminals or dangerous. In the United States, and likewise in our County, 1 in 4 adults will live with mental illness. That's 25% of our county residents!! The stigma that exists against brain disorders versus physical disorders such as cancer, heart conditions, or physical disabilities is frankly astounding to me. Our bodies include our brain, and we can't ignore any part of the whole. There is simply no viable, rational argument that mental illness should be left untreated and treatment options should be campaigned against! I have to believe the fear and stigma that surround mental illness are getting the better of some fine folks in Templeton. In fact, most of the people who spoke in opposition to the hospital prefaced their comments by saying they agree there is a need for this hospital's services.

The California Men's Colony and the Atascadero State Hospital have coexisted in our county for years. These are facilities for criminals. Why a behavioral health hospital for private citizens using private insurance is being distorted in such a fearful way is frustrating, but understandable. Folks are just sadly unaware of the facts surrounding mental illness. People with mental illness are 11 TIMES more likely to be the victims of crime than the perpetrators. Our Sheriff sent a statement in support of the hospital, and the various North County Police Chiefs have all written letters of support for this project. They understand the need for mental health treatment to have a healthy community.

The need has also been proven by those of us in the Mental Wellness community - the non-profits, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists – by the long history we have with folks trying to recover from brain disorders. The County Health Department is well aware of the need, but the County does NOT have the funding to provide a treatment facility at this time.

The facts are clear. We trust the Commissioners to look at this rationally and put the "we see the need, but don't build it near me" opinions in perspective. Please see this as the gift it is to those who need treatment to recover, and their families. We will all benefit from more treated individuals living amongst us. Thanks to the majority who attended the hearing wearing lime green ribbons for mental health awareness.

Cindy Johnson

TMHA Board of Directors

1767 Southwood Drive

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

ATTACHMENT 7

April 27, 2015

Via Certified Mail

Joe Koski, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Templeton Unified School District
960 Old County Road
Templeton, CA 93465

Re: Mitigation of the Behavioral Health Hospital's Financial Impact on the Templeton Unified School District

Dear Dr. Koski:

A few days ago I received from a Templeton resident a copy of your March 9, 2015 letter from the Templeton Unified School District (TUSD) Board to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission concerning the potential for budgetary impacts relating to students from outside of TUSD who may be admitted to the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital. I was surprised not to have received this too. I understand the concern that you, the TUSD and Templeton residents have about this potential budgetary issue. I called your office numerous times in February and early March to discuss this issue with you. My calls were not returned.

As a result of my inability to communicate with you directly, I sent you an email dated March 19, 2015 (attached) stating that Vizion Health would pay for the cost of educating students who stay over 14 days in our proposed facility and who are residents outside of the TUSD. I also suggested in this letter that we formalize this intent in a contract (see attached email correspondence dated March 19, 2015). This offer still stands.

In the interim, I have spoken with several expert and other treatment facilities regarding these issues, length of stay, and school district residency requirements and reimbursement. My research has reaffirmed my conviction that generally there will be no need for services from the TUSD for students admitted to the hospital.

The proposed hospital is for acute behavioral health patients who are in crisis. Half of the beds are for children and adolescents. At this hospital, people come for evaluation, stabilization, treatment and then are referred to a long-term care facility or return home to their doctor's care. The maximum stay at our crisis care center is for 14 days. Most patients are there 5 to 8 days.

ATTACHMENT 7

The typical patient that comes to us is one who is depressed, has suicidal thoughts, and/or suffers from serious anxiety.

I hope this letter assures the TUSD, the residents of Templeton and you that Vizion Health is prepared to bear the expense for children and adolescents admitted to the hospital as expressed above and in my previous email.

Please let me know how you would like to proceed.

Sincerely,

Mark Schneider
President

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
Ms. Holly Phipps, County Planner
Dr. & Mrs. Harvey Billig



Fred Russell <fnfrussell@gmail.com>

Fwd: Developer's Fees

1 message

Shirley Sigmund <ssigmund@templetonusd.org>

Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 6:30 PM

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

Cc: Gwen Pelfrey <grpelfrey@sbcglobal.net>, Fred Russell <fnfrussell@gmail.com>, Gregg Ellison <greggell1@aol.com>, Gregg Ellison <greggelli@aol.com>, "David La Rue, Ph.D." <david14larue@gmail.com>

Here's the answer Murray.

Sincerely,
Shirley

Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron Asplund <aasplund@templetonusd.org>
Date: January 4, 2016 at 8:53:02 AM PST
To: Shirley Sigmund <ssigmund@templetonusd.org>
Subject: Re: Developer's Fees

Hello Shirley,

We had a wonderful break and are ready to get back to it today!

I cannot comment on how much the fees will be that get assessed if the Billig project goes forward without knowing the square footage of the development. But yes, fees would be assessed to the facility as a commercial development. These fees collected by TUSD cannot be used for anything other than addressing school facility needs that arise from increased enrollment (deriving from new residential and commercial development in town). Therefore, the statement that the developer fees could be used to reimburse the District for the costs of providing services to school-aged patients at the facility is not accurate.

Hope this provides the clarification you are seeking.

Thanks,

Aaron

On Sun, Jan 3, 2016 at 10:07 PM, Shirley Sigmund <ssigmund@templetonusd.org> wrote:

Hi Aaron,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Winter Break!

I have a question from a friend in the community, and the question pertains to how developer's fees are distributed and assigned.

Specifically, the person heard (at the Board of Supervisors meeting where the Billig project was presented) this:

"One issue is the claim made that \$86,000 in developer fees will be paid to TUSD.

Implying that these funds would be available for reimbursing the District for costs incurred in providing services to School age patients at the facility. One person said

that the entire amount would be paid to TUSD but that the funds are intended for construction of new facilities and are not available to pay for services. What is the correct answer?"

Would you please let me know how I can best answer this person's questions about developer's fees?

Thank you so much,

Shirley

—

Shirley Sigmund
President of the Board of Trustees
Templeton Unified School District

This electronic mail transmission does not necessarily reflect the views and opinion of a majority of the Board of Trustees of Templeton Unified School District. A Board member's electronic communication may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. (Government Code 6250-6270)

—

Aaron Asplund
Chief Business Official
Templeton Unified School District
[\(805\) 434-5810](tel:(805)434-5810)

My name is Fred Russell, and I am a member of the Concerned Citizens Preventing Unintended Consequences to the proposed Psychiatric facility.

I would like to point out some of the false claims and misrepresentations made by the developers and their representatives in their mailer, opinion pieces and testimony before you.

This will not be a secure facility. People can leave when they want to.

Discharged patients do not have to return to their residence of origin.

The claim they will reimburse the school district is false. (See Schneider e mail attached.)

The facility is not in a residential neighborhood. The property line is shared with a new housing development.

They claim the County needs 50 beds per 100,000-Total of 140 beds. Will treat 7,280 patients a year. There is absolutely no support for this CHA claim as reported by the SLO Tribune. In the Dec. 10th hearing, applicants then presented a survey claiming the County needs 18 beds per 100,000-Total of 50 beds- Would treat 2,600 patients a year.

NIMBY Claims- Developer lives in Carmel, Monterey County- CHA reports Monterey has 9.4 beds per 100,000. The Billig's have acknowledged the shortage of mental acute care beds in Monterey.

They imply the facility will reduce the number of "INVOLUNTARY ACUTE CARE PATIENTS" that SLO County Dept. of Health care for. This is not true.

Claim that SLO BHD referred 350 "involuntary" patients to out of county acute care facilities. They failed to explain that the proposed project will not accept "involuntary" patients.

They claim the facility will be segregated into 4 equal size sections. 25% to adults (ages 21-64 years.) Adults make up 65% of SLO and other neighboring counties population.

They will be paying \$80,000.00 plus in school fees which will help defray costs to the school district. These fees would be assessed to the facility as a commercial development. These fees collected by Templeton Unified School District cannot be used for anything other than addressing school facility needs that arise from increased enrollment. Therefore, the statement that the developer fees could be used to reimburse the District for the costs of providing services to school-aged patients at the facility is not accurate. (See email attached from Aaron Asplund, Chief Business Official-TUSD.)

Enough of the misstatements.

The size of the project is too big for the land. The parking will not be adequate for both facilities. Forty four feet is too high for the proposed project. The height is allowed to 35 feet.

More than 50 percent of San Luis Obispo County residents who need the services of this facility will not be eligible for it. Medi Cal does not cover adults between the ages of 21 and 65.

Our overpass and off ramp at Las Tablas and 101 is not adequate for our current needs and we will be adding 1300 trips a day with the new facility. Las Tablas road may have to be widened to four lanes. Who pays for this? The County.

Our children and teens have to get the proper schooling. Our district will not be reimbursed for special education needs required by the temporary inpatients. This will hurt the quality of education in the Templeton School District, the reason people move here in the first place.

This area is a physical medical corridor not a mental corridor. There are no mental health facilities here, nor are there any social services.

Regarding State Law: As pointed out by TAAG, state regulations require the planning process, and therefore the Planning Commission must consider and address all of the following:

1. Community impact and compatibility in the community and surrounding neighborhoods.
2. Environmental impact under CEQA guidelines, including SB743(not followed)
3. Community Health and Public safety in that the project and its use will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public, or detrimental or injurious to nearby properties and neighborhoods.
4. Use will not generate a volume of traffic beyond the safe capacity of all current roads providing access to the project.
5. A balance of all testimony.

We need a full EIR to determine how we will be affected, not a negative declaration.

We want adequate mental health for this community and our county. I am my brother's keeper, however, I am not the keeper for all Counties within 200 miles of SLO County. A 20 bed unit is enough to take care of SLO County's mental health needs. Nowhere does law require us to take care of Kern County, Santa Barbara County, Monterey County and other counties mental health needs. A smaller facility will serve all our needs, and put much less stress on Templeton's residents and our inadequate services.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Russell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.



Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Center: A SPC Support

Laura DeLoye

to:

rhedges

01/12/2016 12:40 PM

Cc:

Barry Johnson, Marie Brinkmeyer, Sara Sanders

Hide Details

From: Laura DeLoye <mari_posamusictherapy@gmail.com>

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

Cc: Barry Johnson <bjohnson@t-mha.org>, Marie Brinkmeyer <rsvpslo@srvolunteer.org>, Sara Sanders <SSanders@rideshare.org>

Dear Chairperson Topping and Planning Commissioners,

As the Chair of the SLO County Adult Services Policy Council (ASPC) I am writing to you with the Council's support as concerned professionals and citizens working and living in SLO County, to ask that you please consider supporting the proposal of a new Mental Health Inpatient facility, continuing to be addressed at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, January 14.

Recent ASPC meetings have addressed the Mental Health needs of our region'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. From these presentations and committee discussion, our committee has recognized a dire need of additional mental health support in the region. As a county-wide council, we do not take a stand on where those beds should be located. We do, however, strongly support the addition of licensed beds within the County that will meet the needs of all of our County residents. We are aware that the only currently proposed facility before the Planning Commission is to be located in Templeton near Twin Cities Hospital and other medical services. The addition of this facility would significantly ease the current strain in our mental health care system; we hope that you will provide adequate consideration to that proposal.

In November, Judy Vick, LMFT, manager of SLO County Behavioral Health, presented to ASPC, 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 who are primarily either indigent or Medi-Cal recipients. All individuals with medical insurance needing inpatient mental health treatment are sent out of the County. This means that other counties are providing mental health treatment for residents of SLO County. Moving SLO County residents 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 support the development of an adequate number of mental health beds to meet the needs of San Luis Obispo County residents requiring inpatient mental health treatment.

We appreciate your consideration of the current proposal on this very

important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Adult Services Policy Council of SLO County
Laura DeLoye, Chair

Mariposa Music Therapy
Laura DeLoye, MT-BC

MariposaMusicTherapy@gmail.com

805-225-6101

P.O. Box 3522

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

Facebook: Mariposa Music Therapy

~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.



Re: Proposed Templeton Psychiatric Facility

gregg ellison

to:

RHedges@co.slo.ca.us

01/10/2016 06:12 PM

Cc:

"Murray J. Powell"

Hide Details

From: gregg ellison <greggelli@aol.com>

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

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

On Jan 10, 2016, at 6:11 PM, gregg ellison <greggelli@aol.com> wrote:

Dear San Luis Obispo Planning Commission,

I have practiced as a primary care physician in Internal Medicine in Templeton for 35 years.

After attending the December Planning meeting I have developed additional reasons to oppose the Templeton Psychiatric Facility.

!) It clearly will place a severe and unfair financial burden to the Templeton School District!

The developer estimates that 42% of the patients will be of school age. At full capacity, using the state wide average stay of 8.5 days (which is all insurance coverage will allow on average, under the Affordable Care Act), 91 beds at 8.5 average length of stay will accommodate 3,897 patients per year. If 42% are school age students this will mean 1637 students per year will need an Individual Education Program an educational services paid entirely by the Templeton School District.

The developers school fee, I believe to be approximately 85,000 dollars, which as you know is only a one-time fee and can only be used for facilities, not program, and would probably only cover at most four months cost of the first year of operations. If the total average cost per student is as little as 250 dollars, it will cost the small Templeton School District 409,250 dollars per

year. In 20 years, 8,185,000 dollars. This would cost more than half of the money borrowed in our recent school bond.

I very much doubt that more than 15 students a year at this facility will be from Templeton School district.

The citizens of Templeton have no idea of the extent of this potential massive financial burden that this facility will place, and I urge you as planners to protect them from this lack of information by denying the facility, or at the very least make the developer pay from day one every penny of the direct and indirect costs attributable to operating this facility. I believe the developer said that they will be charging more than 1100 per day which is more than enough to pay for all educational costs for students from outside the Templeton School District.

2) The facility as planned is much too massive and intrusive for the small lot it is planned for. As now situated, it will be built within 15 feet of my office, and if it is approved at 44 feet (which is beyond the 35 foot usual limit and much too high), it will block all the afternoon sun that currently reaches my office. We will feel like we are next to a high rise in New York City. Also it is much too close to our complex, and has completely inadequate parking.

3) The project should be denied outright at this very inappropriate location. But if it is approved it should be drastically reduced in size, and the developers forced to provide care to adult Medi-Cal patients. They claim that it is illegal to treat adult Medi-Cal patients at their facility, which is a claim that sounds preposterous. What I suspect is that they are unwilling to meet the standards that they would have to comply with to get approval to treat adult Medi-Cal patients, mostly because adult Medi-Cal patients generate lower revenues than private pay patients. What hospital in our county would now be more profitable if they didn't have to treat Medi-Cal patients? The Planning Commission should investigate what the developer needs to do to be able to treat adult Medi-Cal patients. I am certain that adult Medi-Cal patients are not denied inpatient psychiatric care as part of the Affordable Health Care Law. This claim by the developer needs to be dealt with before any decision is reached.

The planning commission would never have approved Twin Cities, French, or Sierra Vista Hospitals if they were unwilling to do whatever necessary to be able to treat adult Medi-Cal patients. Why should this developer from Carmel be permitted to only take the most profitable patients? He is unwilling to treat the homeless, any adult Medi-Cal, and any uninsured patients. He isn't willing to treat patients whose primary problem is drug or alcohol addiction. Since adult Medi-Cal patients are now one third of all adult patients, and the uninsured still represent a significant percentage of our population, the developer is unwilling to treat almost one half of all adults in California.

I know for a fact that a condition of Twin Cities getting approved was that it was willing to treat both Medi-Cal and the uninsured.

4) As the developer has it now planned over 80 per cent of all his patients will be from outside of our county. The facility should be sized to treat patients from our county. We have no legal obligation under any federal or state mandate to treat psychiatric patients or provide any services to any person for anything if they are from other counties. I also urge the Planning Commission to get additional legal advice. It seemed to myself and fellow attendees that the county legal on this case is very much in favor of this project. Even our own U.S. Supreme Court has dissenting opinions. I was very much taken aback by the opening statement from county legal and feel that the board owes the citizens of our county another opinion because the way in which her opening statement was presented seemed to take to many talking points off the table, which may or may not be the advice if a different county attorney had presented their legal interpretation of the same facts. We all know of different judges who rule 180 degrees opposite given identical facts. I am sure she is very capable, but no one is right all the time. As a physician I often ask for a second opinion in difficult cases. I am not questioning her ability, but her interpretation of the statutes as they apply to the review of this project.

5) We do not have adequate social services, public services, school funding or law enforcement to treat and deal with the obvious problems let alone the unintended consequences that a psychiatric facility of this size, in this location will create by drawing 80% of its patients from outside our county. It is a terrible location for this and too small a lot. I, along with most of the physicians in the north county, have personally been asked three times by the developer to invest in this same lot for other projects. He didn't ask any of us this time, undoubtedly because it is such a widely unpopular location and unpopular project. We don't have enough psychiatrists to treat the patients we already have in our county who need them. The AMA data of physicians per capita for our county has consistently shown that we are 300 primary care physicians short already, and this proportionately applies to all specialties in medicine. The reason for this has already been brought up for years to Lois Capps, and it is that by historic medicare reimbursements our county's physicians are reimbursed 12% less than those in L.A. and San Francisco. She passed a bill that will have this oversight corrected in 2025! Until this is fixed we will continue to have difficulty recruiting psychiatrists and all physicians to our county. Twin Cities has been looking for months to hire a psychiatrist, but unable to get one to come here because of low reimbursements. This facility will have the same reimbursement problems that we all do, and will only aggravate outpatient psychiatric shortages in our county. To say we have adequate sheriff staffing to deal with this project seems odd, one of the neighbors 4 blocks from the hospital reported a prowler in his yard, and the sheriff arrived 4 hours later, by which time the prowler had been scared off.

I urge you to DENY approval for this project!

Sincerely,

Gregg Ellison M.D.

1105 Las Tablas Road
Templeton, Calif. 93465