



CAMPBELL COUNTY

ADULT TREATMENT COURTS

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The City of Gillette, Office of Planning
201 East 5th Street
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Gillette, WY 82716

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support concerning the proposed revision to the current zoning requirements of R-2, R-3 zones to allow for a residential care facility in Campbell County Wyoming.

While our community provides opportunities for citizens to obtain out-patient care for alcohol/drug abuse and addiction, there are no opportunities to receive residential treatment locally. Unfortunately, the need for residential treatment continues to be in high demand. Individuals assessed as needing residential treatment must apply to programs outside of Campbell County and await an opening. Often, the wait period is so long that the individual relapses. If involved with the legal system, they then end up with a bond violation or charged with a new crime, with delays even longer their ability to begin treatment.

Currently in the Campbell County Adult Felony Treatment Court Program, eight (8) of our sixteen (16) participants were assessed as needing residential treatment before they were able to join the Treatment Court program. Typically, residential treatment lasts a minimum of 90 days; often it is longer. That is a minimum of 90 days these individuals are separated from their family and support systems in their community.

There is no question there is a need for a residential treatment program in Campbell County. It would reduce the waiting period for individuals to get into a program adequate to meet their needs. Most of the individuals in our local jail are there due to their involvement with alcohol and/or drugs. The cost to tax payers to simply house individuals who would be better served through treatment is staggering.

The idea to bring a residential program to Gillette is not new. Many meetings have occurred over the past couple of years among service providers and stake holders in the community on this subject, yet it has not come to fruition. Perhaps this time it will and our community will be better for it.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on this matter with you. I am grateful to hear this idea has re-surfaced and would be happy discuss this matter further if needed.

Sincerely,

Denise Elbert

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