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Crook County
 Community Development

TO: Crook County Planning Commission
 Crook County Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Conversion of church facilities on EFU farmland to for-profit drug/alcohol treatment facilities (conditional use C-CU-2337-07)

Concerning the actions of the Crook County Planning Division and Director:

Inadequate public notice and comment

With only minimal public notice and input, the church's property of 30+ acres of farmland has been approved for use by a drug/alcohol treatment corporation. This "conditional use" modification has been under review by Crook County since March 2024. Notice was given only to owners within 750' of the church. This change of use is major, and worthy of both widespread public notice and public hearing.

Crook County actions appear to minimize public awareness of, and public participation in, a major change in the conditional use of farmland.

Change of non-profit church use to for-profit, corporate drug/alcohol treatment use

120 paying resident patients is a change to the existing non-profit church use. The applicant's business is a private, for-profit, corporation facility. Payment is required by the patients. The drug/alcohol treatment facility will treat national patients that arrive and depart by airplane or bus.

The change of EFU permitted use from non-profit, church activity to for-profit, corporate activity requires more than an administrative decision without public testimony.

Community Center

Crook County determined that a closed, fenced, for-profit drug/alcohol treatment facility is a Community Center serving the area. But the applicant states that the proposed facilities are "closed", and that patients being treated are not permitted to leave without staff escort. Crook County conditions of approval require fencing around all the patient areas.

A closed and fenced treatment facility is not a Community Center.

Public Safety

At the October 3 Open House held by Sunshine Behavioral Health Group LLC (the hospital owner), the "acceptable criminal offenses" of patients were admitted to, as a result of questioning. The treatment of patients with criminal background, and the neighborhood security requirements required, is not addressed by the county in its approval.


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