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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes
March 31, 2014**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met for a Special Meeting regarding a “Sober Living Home” on Monday, March 31, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathertorium located in the DeKalb County Legislative Center.

Chairman Fullerton called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Cvek, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Oncken, Mrs. Turner and Mr. Tyson. Mrs. Tobias was absent. Others present were Gary Hanson, Chairman Metzger, Judge Robbin Stuckert, Judge Carla Alessio-Policandriotes, Marilyn Stromborg, Julie McCabe-Sterr, Richard Schmack, Paul Miller, Tracy Jones, Bob Brown, Mark Pietrowski, Jeff Whelan, Judge Ron Matekaitis, Michael Douglas, Andy Vanatta, Donny Adams, about thirteen Drug Court participants and past alumni, and many other audience members including surrounding neighbors to the Sycamore Government Campus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Cvek, seconded by Mr. Oncken and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from March 17, 2014.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cvek moved to amend the agenda by adding Public Comments as item #5. He also suggested splitting the “Sober Living Home” item into two parts to discuss separately the purposed purchase of the home located at 303 E. Exchange St., Sycamore, IL and the Sober Living Home Program.

Chairman Fullerton indicated that would not be necessary considering a letter she was about to read from County Administration. Mr. Cvek agreed to retract the second part of his motion to separate the “Sober Living Home” item but would like to keep an amendment to add Public Comments to the Agenda.

Moved by Mr. Cvek, seconded by Mr. Oncken and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Chairman Fullerton read the following letter aloud to the Committee and audience that she had received earlier in the day from DeKalb County Administrator, Gary Hanson with respects to the purposed Sober Living Home at 303 E. Exchange St., Sycamore, IL:

“Anticipating that part of your Committee’s discussion for tonight’s meeting will concern the location of a Sober Living Home, I thought it would be beneficial to give you an update on the property located at 303 East Exchange Street.

Despite its advantageous location, as County staff proceeded through the due diligence steps in the last couple of weeks of evaluating this property, we no longer find it to be the best fit for use as a Sober Living Home. Because of the unique requirements that are needed for this type of "rooming house", couple with regulation that we would have to meet as a governments body, staff now feels there may be better options to pursue. Therefore, at the next Executive Committee meeting, I will be asking the Committee to withdraw the proposed resolution to buy the property at 303 E. Exchange Street. County staff remains committed to finding a suitable property for this program and in the interim, we would encourage the Law & Justice Committee to embrace and endorse the Sober Living program."

Mr. Oncken clarified to the Committee and the audience that the County is not going to go through with the purchase of the property located at 303 E. Exchange St., Sycamore, IL.

DeKalb County Presiding Judge Robbin Stuckert announced: *"Although it appears that the County has decided that the property located at 303 E. Exchange Street is no longer the best fit for the use of a Sober Living Home, please not that other residence located in R-2 and R-3 areas encamps the same adventitious location being in close proximity of the Courthouse and may be situated in the area where many of you may live. Therefore we take this opportunity to move forward tonight with our scheduled presentation."*

SOBER LIVING HOME PRESENTATION

Judge Stuckert thanked the Law & Justice Committee for the opportunity to address them regarding to establishing a Sober Living Community in conjunction with the Drug/DUI Court. She also thanked the citizens of DeKalb County that were in attendance and hoped that with the conclusion of the meeting all of their questions and concerns will be addressed.

Judge Stuckert first explained the process of establishing a Sober Living Home in Sycamore. The City of Sycamore has defined, by Ordinance, placement of a Recovery Home by application and presentation and approval of a Special Use Permit. The Recovery Homes must be located in R-2 or R-3 areas within the City of Sycamore *(as shown on the attached 2013 City of Sycamore Zoning Map)*.

Mr. Cvek inquired to Judge Stuckert if tonight's meeting was intended to be a sales pitch on a Sycamore location or a general presentation on the Sober Living Home concept. Judge Stuckert explained that they were in attendance to educate everyone in the entire County on the program and show what the City of Sycamore has done thus far with their request.

Judge Stuckert continued to explain that the City of Sycamore currently allows for Group Homes to be established but when they inquired about starting a Sober Living Home; the City of Sycamore determined that it would take a Special Use Permit for establishment of a Recovery Sober Living Home.

Judge Stuckert presented information about the DeKalb County Drug/DUI Court Program for everyone to get a better understanding of the requirements and acceptance regulations to be admitted into the program. Judge Stuckert explained that The General Assembly recognizes that the use and abuse of drugs has a dramatic effect on the criminal justice system in the State of Illinois. There is a critical need for a criminal justice system program that will reduce the

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incidence of drug use, drug addiction, and crimes committed as a result of drug use and drug addiction. It is the intent of the General Assembly to create specialized drug courts with the necessary flexibility to meet the drug problems in the State of Illinois.

According to Illinois State Statute (730 ILCS 166/20) a defendant may be admitted into a drug court program only upon the agreement of the prosecutor and the defendant and with the approval of the court. A defendant shall be excluded from a drug court program if any of one of the following applies:

- (1) The crime is a crime of violence as set forth in clause.
- (2) The defendant denies his or her use of or addiction to drugs.
- (3) The defendant does not demonstrate a willingness to participate in a treatment program.
- (4) The defendant has been convicted of a crime of violence within the past 10 years excluding incarceration time, including but not limited to: first degree murder, second degree murder, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual assault, armed robbery, aggravated arson, arson, aggravated kidnaping, kidnaping, aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disability, stalking, aggravated stalking, or any offense involving the discharge of a firearm.
- (5) The defendant has previously completed or has been discharged from a drug court program.

Judge Stuckert further explained how individuals are accepted into Drug Court Program and the process by which they have to go through and the rules they have to be willing to follow to in order to remain in the program. Entry into DUI/Drug Court is a privilege it is not a right and Judge Stuckert explained that her and the Drug Court Team go to great lengths to ensure that all of the participants meet the criteria, not only by the State but the added criteria that DeKalb County provides that goes above and beyond what the State requires.

Judge Stuckert continued to share why a Sober Living Home would be beneficial in DeKalb County. She explained that 66% of their participants dismissed from Drug Court for not being able to successfully complete the program have at one time been in a Halfway House outside of the County. She continued that there are some very nice facilities outside of the County but one of the biggest problems is that they are getting applications from all individuals whether they are court ordered through treatment programs or individually on their own that are placed through inpatient treatment. Understandably the first individuals need that are addressed are those who have insurance to pay for the extended treatment which cases many court participants to be rejected due to the lack of facilities or funding to send them to these homes. Many times the individuals have to wait months for beds, so while someone is waiting for a bed in an impatient treatment for a Halfway House, they may have to sit in the County Jail for up to a month. Out of County houses do not have as frequent of drug, alcohol testing and continual counseling as DeKalb County would like as well and there is a delay in communication which causes multiple problems, Judge Stuckert shared.

Judge Stuckert introduced guest speakers from Will County, Judge Carla Alessio-Policandriotes and Will County Drug Court Coordinator, Julie McCabe-Sterr to share information regarding Sober Living Homes that they have established in Joliet, Illinois.

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Judge Carla Alessio-Policandriotes introduced herself and gave a brief history of herself to the Committee and the audience. Judge Alessio-Policandriotes shared the struggles that the Will County Drug Court Program had establishing their first Sober Living Home but also assured that with the purchase of their second home they had full support from the community and surrounding neighbors. The Will County Drug Court has had around 320 graduates since 1999.

The Judge continued that in 2009 the Will County Drug Court Program presented buying a Recovery Home for men, because that was their highest need at the time. She shared that the community came out in droves very upset and concerned with the fact that they would even consider establishing a home like that in their neighborhoods. Then she continued that those same residents are the ones that were in support of the Drug Court Program purchasing a second home in their community for women. She continued that the one factor everyone did know was that the individuals residing in the Recovery Homes were in fact sober due to it being a 24 hour a day 7 day a week monitored home. She continued that the homes have to be near the courthouse, it has to be near case managers and probation officers and bus line services. The Judge also invited everyone to think of who and where these individuals are from, if they are from DeKalb County, they will return home to DeKalb County regardless if they are getting out of treatment facilities or prison with no drug testing, no alcohol testing, no monitoring and they could already be living next door to citizens. The Judge assured that citizens will know where a Recovery Home is because it will be the best maintained house in the neighborhood with no problems because of the constant monitoring and strict enforced rules the house and program instill.

Julie McCabe-Sterr, Will County Drug Court Coordinator shared some Will County newspaper articles and presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining Drug Court and Sober Living Recovery Houses. *(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.)*

Mrs. McCabe-Sterr also detailed to the Committee and the audience about their Sober Living Homes. The houses are run like normal homes, there are bedrooms and living rooms, televisions, as well as gardens and very well kept yards. Every person coming into the house takes a breathalyzer test and there are alarms set every night at a certain time. All residents in the Sober Living Homes are drug tested at least three times a week as well as whenever their name is drawn for random tests. Mrs. McCabe-Sterr also showed a slide show with pictures of their Sober Living Homes and how they are set up.

Mrs. McCabe-Sterr reiterated that their houses are home because people recover in homes and they go back to homes. People come into Drug Court at a very low time in their lives, but they come in because they *want* to get help and through the program they are made whole again. These individuals are going to come back into the community whether it be from right out of jail or from out of a Sober Living Home where they would receive every ounce of help that is available like counseling, drug education, psychosocial rehab, drug testing and alcohol testing.

Mrs. McCabe-Sterr lastly added that these houses have made a huge difference in Will County and has lowered their recidivism rate greatly. The individuals who come out of the Sober Living

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Homes are able to go back home in their communities with a network of resources, friends, a job, and the tools they need to stay sober and continue their new lives.

Chairman Fullerton entertained questions from the Committee members regarding the presentation, the program or for the guest speakers.

Mr. Tyson shared that he is a former certified substance abuse counselor for the State of Illinois. He has worked in hospital programs, Cook County Jail, treatment programs, and mental health agencies. He continued that people use in communities but they also recover in communities and it is unrealistic to put a Sober Living Home out in the country because people want to recover where they used at and where they lived at. Mr. Tyson also reiterated to the audience that these are non-violent offenders and to have the type of structure that was presented today from the guest speakers equals success. He stated that we have to have these programs in our community because these are our friends, our family members, and our neighbors. He lastly addressed to the citizens that he has had calls and emails from that these programs have to be in our communities because addition spreads in our communities but so does recovery and he feels very strongly that these programs are needed in our community.

Mr. Cvek shared that he has been opposed to this plan based on location and process but he is sensitive to the need for the programs and supports the DeKalb County Drug Court. He continued that looking at how the process was laid out in Will County confirms some of his fears in how everyone has gotten to this point and how DeKalb County kind of jumped some of those steps. Mr. Cvek suggested pushing the restart button on the entire Sober Living Home project and possibly reaching out to the faith-based communities and the local non-for-profit communities and put together a plan that is built for long term success. Looking at this project from a funding standpoint he continued that in order to have the community buy in you have to raise the funds from the community.

Mr. Tyson spoke to Mr. Cvek's faith-based community buy in and stated that that is already occurring with NA Meetings and AA Meetings in the Churches and this program is an extra supplement to give us more and give the community more.

The Committee discussed more about the community support of the program and the Will County guests provided examples of the how residents in their community came around after seeing how the Sober Living Homes functioned. Mr. Tyson also stressed removing the stigma of addicts and the only way to gain community support is showing the community that these programs work to remove the stigma.

Mr. Schmack spoke on some of the points that had been made but he also shared that the Drug Court Team had been going around to different properties in the community as they were for sale and obviously went to the City of Sycamore to permit a Sober Living Home by Special Use so they have been actively pursuing this plan and they visited Will County Homes and wanted to model what they did with the community meetings and so forth. Mr. Schmack continued that as for the Safe House that was torn down that was never intended to be a Safe House to begin with but was ultimately going to be torn down regardless for the DeKalb County Jail Expansion and it

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was zoned commercial which would not be permitted for a Sober Living House according to the City of Sycamore.

Mr. Cvek stated that most of the problems that are being faced right now are largely self-inflicted in the fact that there is a neighborhood with raw nerves that is apprehensive at any move the County makes and that the County should have known better than to put an offer in on a property that jumps the 100 year plan. And that it is undeniable that how they got to this point could have been a heck of a lot better.

Chairman Fullerton shared that looking back they could always do better but this is where everyone was at right now so they had to start there. She continued that this is such a wonderful program and an opportunity to help people within the community and she understands that there are raw nerves and that things could have been done differently or better but what she really wants the outcome of this meeting to be is an opportunity to discuss this program, understand each other, and find a path forward.

Mr. Oncken wanted to make a quick comment that he stands 100% behind this program and behind the home and he encourages the Drug Court Teams and staff to look and identify properties and begin this process. He did also admit coming from everyone including staff that this whole process could have been done better and if they could undo it they most certainly would to avoid the discomfort everyone is experiencing and have experienced the last couple of weeks throughout this process. Mr. Oncken stated that he for one feel this is a necessity for the community and would encourage and he suggested if a property is identified then to come back to the Board to determine if the County should purchase the property or if Drug Court should look for other alternatives.

Mr. Frieders questioned how the individuals in the Sober Living Homes are receiving jobs in today's market. Judge Alessio-Policandriotes shared that in Will County they provide the first one to two weeks rent free for the individuals in order to help but they are required to fill out a minimum of 15 job applications per week in order to obtain employment. She continued that there are jobs out there the individual may be over qualified for or an individual may take a part-time job and take junior college courses to help them obtain a better job in the long run.

Mr. Frieders lastly added that he agreed with most everything that was said and he did agree with Mr. Cvek that many of the problems would have been avoided if the Law & Justice Committee were to have more involvement in the beginning with this project.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR

Matt Woodstrup residing at 313 N. Locust St., Sycamore, IL indicated that he is not against the Sober Living Home at all he thinks it is a great idea but his frustration is with the County. Mr. Woodstrup stated that the County made a commitment to the surrounding neighborhood that they were not going to cross Walnut Street and that they set the boundary lines and he wants to hold the County reliable for that. He continued that the County asks everyone to trust them and right now he does not trust the County.

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Mr. Oncken asked Mr. Woodstrup if he was upset because the purposes land purchase was right across the street and if the County were to purchase a house two blocks away would he still have the same objections. Mr. Oncken continued that he understands that the County had set boundaries for expanding the footprint of the County Campus but also doesn't mean that as a County Board are refrained from purchasing any other property in the community. Mr. Oncken asked again if Mr. Woodstrup would be opposed to the County Board purchasing any property in the City of Sycamore that is outside of that footprint. Mr. Woodstrup stated that he gave his boundaries which are the ones that the County had laid out, which was defined as east of IL Route 23 and north of IL Route 64.

Kevin Mathey residing at 321 E. Exchange St., Sycamore, IL started by thanking the Committee and the guest speakers for holding the meeting and for the information that was presented to them because he thinks it is possible that many people had come to the meeting ignorant of what the program is and how it works. He continued that his main issue is also crossing of Walnut Street and because of the Sycamore Campus their neighborhood in particular has changed drastically and taken quite a hit. Mr. Mathey shared that he would be in favor of the County purchasing a home in the community anywhere but their neighborhood.

Kate McCabe residing in County Board District 6 asked a few questions to the Committee and the guest panel. She asked where the women are currently being placed. Judge Stuckert shared that the only facility in DeKalb County for women is through Ben Gordon Center which is called Discovery House. Ms. McCabe asked what happened to the men's house and why was it closed. Dr. Stromborg answered that is may have been due to historical reasons or funding issues. Ms. McCabe lastly asked if there are any counseling requirements for Drug Court. Dr. Stromborg explained that they do and that it is intensive outpatient counseling and the Drug Court has their own counselor and she is paid through the Drug Court fund which was explained is funded through court fees.

Carol Bingham residing at 229 E. Sycamore St., Sycamore, IL shared her extreme discontent with the thought of putting a Sober Living Home in a neighborhood with many young children. She also did not like the thought of having a rotating group of men in the neighborhood that no one knows or can be able to trust. Mrs. Bingham reiterated multiple times that she was very concerned and nervous about the safety of children in the neighborhood. Judge Stuckert addressed many of the concerns that Mrs. Bingham had expressed and reiterated many of the strict rules that the Sober Living Homes would enforce.

Jose Hernandez residing at 304 N. Locust St., Sycamore, IL stated that he believes in programs and he believes in helping people and giving them a second chance but if any individuals try and hurt the community he assured that everyone would push back.

Donna Siegmeier residing at 230 N. Sabin St., Sycamore, IL expressed her concerns and fears of the residents that would be occupying the Sober Living Homes.

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Tara King residing in Sycamore, IL is a graduate of the DeKalb County DUI/Drug Court. She shared her story with the Committee and the audience of how she became an addict in the Sycamore/DeKalb Community and how she was able to get sober and regain control of her life again due to the support of Drug Court and her family. Judge Stuckert also shared that Tara is the President of the Drug Court Alumni and that she is also currently in school to become a drug addictions counselor.

Judge Stuckert announced that as they were talking about participants in the Drug Court Program and to help show a face with the individuals who would be living in the Sober Living Homes she invited about 13 individuals who are from DeKalb County and who have become clean and sober through the Drug Court and through going to Halfway Houses and who continue to work very hard to stay on the track with their lives.

Mr. Oncken wanted to add that after looking at the group of individuals present it looks and reminds him of his neighbors and if anyone believes that they do not have addicts or alcoholics in their neighborhood than they are mistaken and they are all around us, they are in our families in our community and the difference with the individuals who are in the Drug Court Program is that they are trying to get better. He continued that the people who would be living in the Sober Living Homes are going to be guaranteed to be sober or they will be going to jail so he would much rather have them as his neighbors than someone else that he would have no clue what is happening behind their closed doors.

Jeff Whelan, DeKalb County Board Member, shared that he has had two brothers and a sister die of alcoholism due to the fact that they came home from treatment to a father that was a drinker and because of the lack of Halfway Houses or Sober Living Homes that could have helped them after they left treatment they very unfortunately passed away. He stated that he was very much in favor of the Sober Living Houses and they are a great need in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Cvek, seconded by Mr. Oncken, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Julia Fullerton

Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary

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DeKalb County Administration

200 N. Main Street ❖ Sycamore, IL 60178-1431 ❖ Phone: (815) 895-7125 ❖ Fax: (815) 895-7187 ❖ www.dekalbcounty.org

March 31, 2014

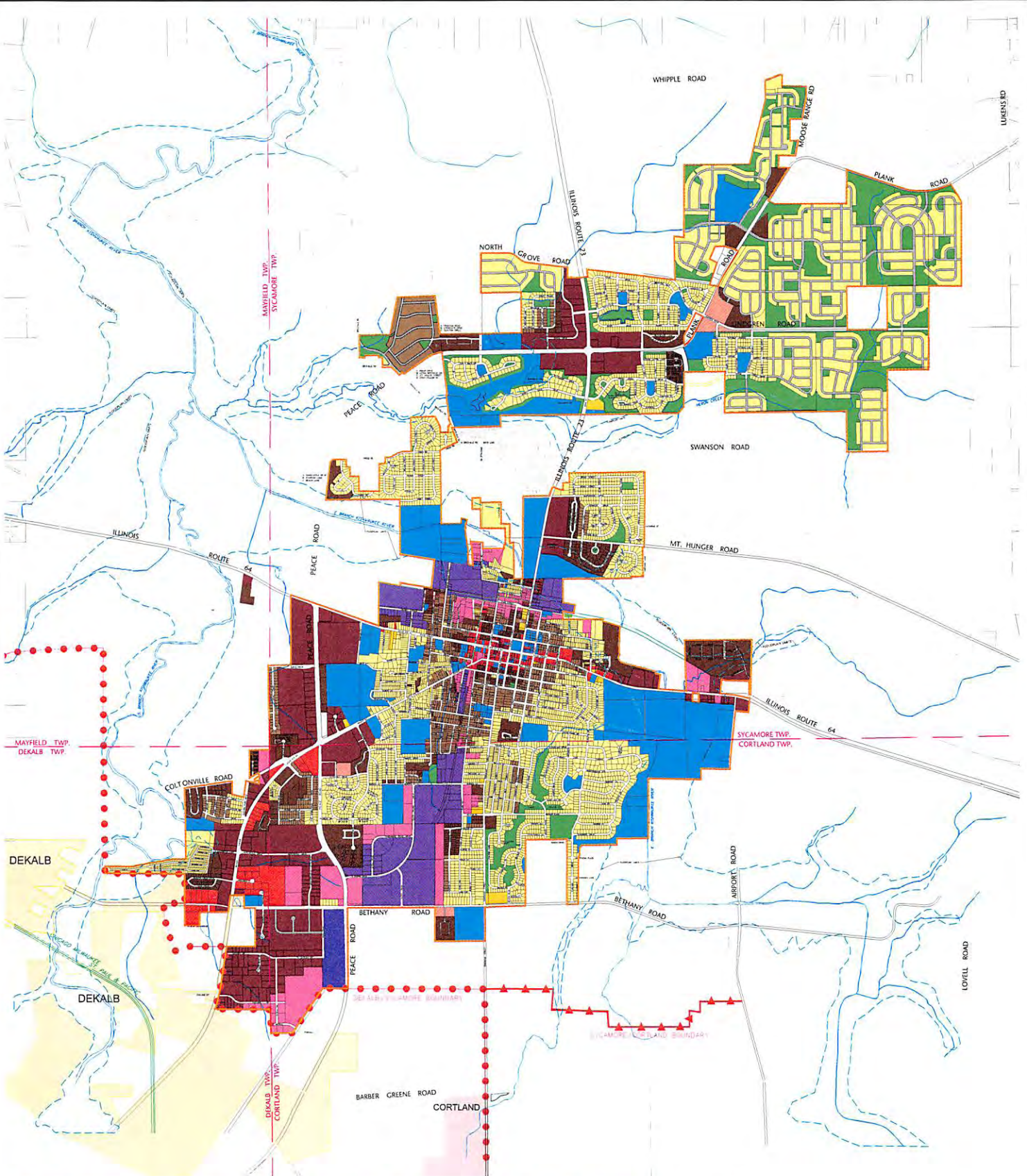
To: Julia Fullerton, Chair
Law & Justice Committee

From: Gary H. Hanson
County Administrator

Subject: Proposed Sober Living Home at 303 E Exchange St, Sycamore

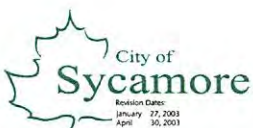
Anticipating that part of your Committee's discussion for tonight's meeting will concern the location of a Sober Living Home, I thought it would be beneficial to give you an update on the property at 303 East Exchange Street.

Despite its advantageous location, as County staff proceeded through the due diligence steps in the last couple of weeks of evaluating this property, we no longer find it to be the best fit for use as a Sober Living Home. Because of the unique requirements that are needed for this type of "rooming house", coupled with regulations that we would have to meet as a government body, staff now feels there may be better options to pursue. Therefore, at the next Executive Committee meeting, I will be asking the Committee to withdraw the proposed resolution to buy the property at 303 E Exchange Street. County staff remains committed to finding a suitable property for this program and in the interim, we would encourage the Law & Justice Committee to embrace and endorse the Sober Living program.



2013 OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

January 7, 2013



Revision Dates:
 January 27, 2003
 April 30, 2003
 May 15, 2003
 March 24, 2005
 March 24, 2006
 March 7, 2007
 May 17, 2007
 October 3, 2007
 March 20, 2008
 February 4, 2009
 February 25, 2010
 January 1, 2011
 January 2, 2012
 January 7, 2013



Drawing Number:
 12-005 During Official 2013
 © 2013 City of Sycamore, IL
 a 2013 City of Sycamore

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT | M-1 LIGHT MANUFACTURING DISTRICT | CITY OF CORTLAND | Platted Lots |
| R-2 TWO FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT | M-2 HEAVY MANUFACTURING DISTRICT | CITY OF DEKALB | Unplatted Lots |
| R-3 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT | OFFICE, RESEARCH, AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL | FLOODPLAIN | |
| C-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT | OPEN SPACE | SYCAMORE / DEKALB BOUNDARY AGREEMENT | |
| C-2 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT | SCHOOLS, PUBLIC PARKS, INSTITUTIONAL & PUBLIC USES | SYCAMORE / CORTLAND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT | |
| R-4 HIGHWAY BUSINESS DISTRICT | AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT | | |
| C-4 MIXED USE | | | |

March 20, 2014

What is a Sober living home?

- A structured, disciplined, and tightly monitored environment for male participants of Drug/DUI Court.
- Drug court staff and police are regularly present.
- Limited to DeKalb County participants who already have a significant amount of sobriety and have demonstrated a commitment to their recovery.
- On-site house manager who lives in the home and enforces all house rules.
- Sober Living Homes include the following house rules:
 - Must be employed
 - No drugs or alcohol and daily testing
 - No violence or threats
 - Curfew
 - No smoking or tobacco products in the house
 - Attend minimum of 3 self-help meetings weekly
 - Pay resident fee on time
 - Maintain hygiene and personal space
 - Complete chores on time
 - Weekly group meetings in the house every week based on recovery planning and developing relapse prevention skills.
 - Restriction of visitors
 - Unannounced property searches
 - Sign-in and sign-out log

Safety

- Participants are non-violent offenders who have been accepted into the program upon approval of police, State's Attorney and members of the treatment court.
- House manager will immediately inform Drug Court Team of rule violations.
- Failure to comply with house rules can result in immediate removal from the home.

Positive Impact on Neighborhood

- We will not be absentee landlords.
- We will maintain a great looking property and house.
- Drug court staff members are long term residents of DeKalb County and value our community and its residents.

The Drug Court staff visited 2 sober living homes which are owned and operated by Will County Drug Court and opened in 2009 and 2011. We contacted local realtors regarding the impact of the recovery homes on the home values.

- "Had no ill effect on the neighborhood, property is well kept and one of the nicer looking properties in the neighborhood" (Lime Street property) Realtor David Roth of Bell Realty
- Former Will County Board Member, realtor Laurie McPhillips, and neighborhood property owner (Frank Street residence) stated, "I know of no complaints from the neighbors and have seen no problems arising from the residents of the house."

As you may know DeKalb County Drug/DUI Court wishes to establish a sober living home at 303 East Exchange in Sycamore. We look forward to meeting with neighbors and community members at the Law and Justice Committee meeting to address any questions or concerns that you might have.

The Dekalb County C.L.E.A.N. (Choosing Life and Ending Abuse Now) Drug/DUI Court Team

Kathy Christensen, Community Member
Charles Criswell, Public Defender Office
Michael Douglas, Drug/DUI Court Probation Officer
Lisa Framke, Designated Drug/DUI Court Addictions Counselor
Deputy Ray Nelson, DeKalb Sheriff's Office
Richard Schmack, State's Attorney
Deputy Brad Sorensen, DeKalb Sheriff's Office
Dr. Marilyn Stromborg, Drug/DUI Court Coordinator
Robbin Stuckert, Presiding Judge
Jim G., member of AA

Today, one out of every 31 adults in the U.S. is in jail, in prison, or on supervised release.

(Senator Jim Webb - Parade Magazine 3/29/09)



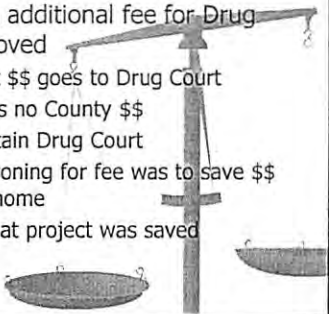
Will County Drug Court

- What We Have
 - A solid program that saves \$\$
- What we Needed
 - Recovery Homes to Improve Successful Completion Rates



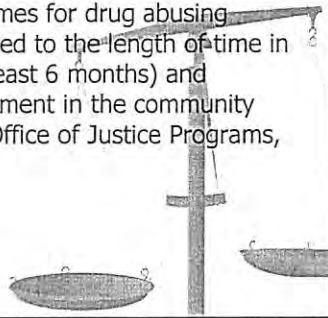
Drug Court Fee

- In May 2007 an additional fee for Drug Court was approved
 - By statute, that \$\$ goes to Drug Court
 - Drug Court uses no County \$\$
 - \$\$ used to Sustain Drug Court
 - Part of the reasoning for fee was to save \$\$ for a recovery home
 - \$340,000 for that project was saved



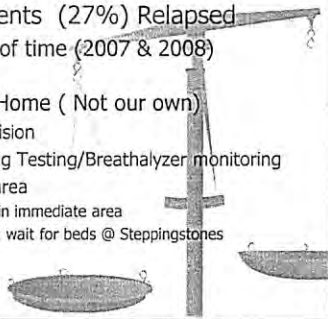
Successful Recovery

Successful outcomes for drug abusing offenders are tied to the length of time in treatment (at least 6 months) and continued treatment in the community after release (Office of Justice Programs, 1997)



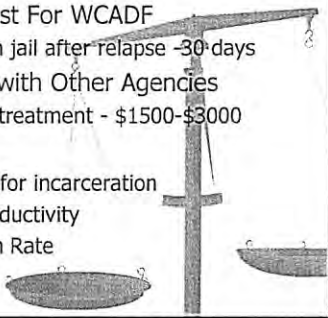
What We Know

- 25 out of 90 clients (27%) Relapsed 2 year period of time (2007 & 2008)
- In a Recovery Home (Not our own)
 - Lack of supervision
 - Infrequent Drug Testing/Breathalyzer monitoring
 - Placed out of area
 - Lack of beds in immediate area
 - Over 3 month wait for beds @ Steppingstones



Cost of Relapse

- More time & Cost For WCAFD
 - Average time in jail after relapse -30 days
- More \$\$ Spent with Other Agencies
 - More inpatient treatment - \$1500-\$3000
- Prison
 - Cost to society for incarceration
 - Cost of lost productivity
 - High Recidivism Rate



Reasoning for Drug Court Recovery Homes

- Less Burden on WCADF
- Less \$\$ on Other Agencies
 - We pay for Other Recovery Homes
 - \$33,000 last year
- More Control Over Clients
 - Conducive to Growth in Recovery
 - Accessible by Staff & Law Enforcement
- Exclusively For Drug Court Clients
 - Not influenced by as many outside sources



How We Prepared

Began attending Illinois Association of Extended Care Meetings

- The purpose of IAEC is to unite residential care facilities within the State of Illinois to improve the quality of services and address issues of concern
- Met with officer to discuss budget and operating policies and procedures

Drug Court House Manager - a National Certified Recovery Specialist (NCRS)

- To provide effective residential extended care to recovering alcoholics and addicts who have completed or are still in treatment

Toured Half-Way Houses and Recovery Homes in Other Communities

- Looked at physical layout and operating procedures

Met with Kalimba House Corporation (Oxford House) to review budget

- Leon Venable has opened 54 existing Oxford Houses in Illinois

Met with Tom Thanos from City of Joliet to discuss locations

Began to look at lots & existing houses as well as new construction models

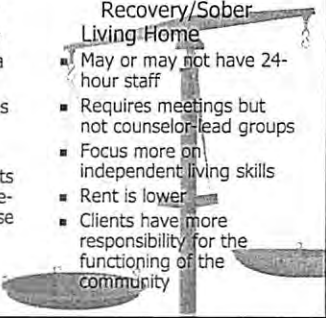
- Got Quotes from builder on new construction



1/2 Way House vs. Recovery Home

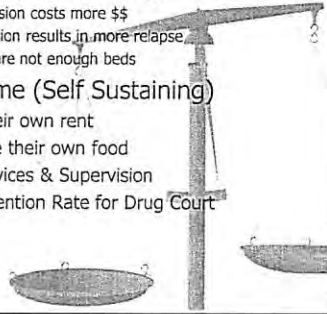
- 1/2 Way House**
- 24-hour staff on duty
 - Clients are assigned a counselor
 - Counselor-lead groups nightly
 - Rent is higher
 - Licensing requirements stricter (must be state-licensed)

- Recovery/Sober Living Home**
- May or may not have 24-hour staff
 - Requires meetings but not counselor-lead groups
 - Focus more on independent living skills
 - Rent is lower
 - Clients have more responsibility for the functioning of the community



Drug Court vs. Alternative Housing

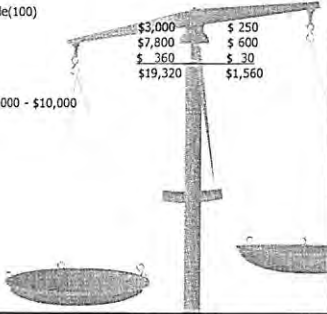
- Half-way House or Recovery Home (90 day)
 - We pay up to \$2,000 to Other Agencies
 - More supervision costs more \$\$
 - Less supervision results in more relapse
 - Still - there are not enough beds
- Drug Court Home (Self Sustaining)
 - Clients Pay their own rent
 - Clients provide their own food
 - Increased Services & Supervision
 - Increased Retention Rate for Drug Court



Operating Expenses

	Annual	Monthly
■ Utilities	\$8,160	\$ 680
■ Gas(250), Electric(200),		
■ Water(80),Phone(50) Cable(100)	\$3,000	\$ 250
■ Maintenance & Supplies	\$7,800	\$ 600
■ House Manager	\$ 360	\$ 30
■ Alarm Monitoring	\$19,320	\$1,560

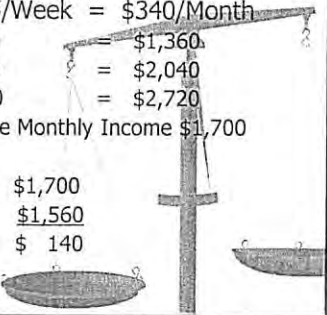
Start Up Cost to furnish home \$5000 - \$10,000



Income Expectations

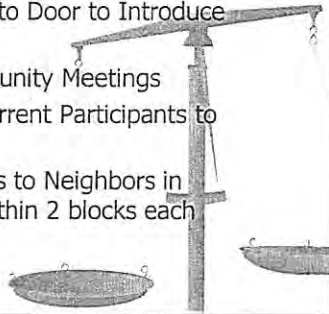
- Client Rent \$85/Week = \$340/Month
 - 4 clients x \$340 = \$1,360
 - 6 clients x \$340 = \$2,040
 - 8 Clients x \$340 = \$2,720
- Estimated Average Monthly Income \$1,700

Income = \$1,700
 Expenses = \$1,560
 Balance = \$ 140



Community Opposition

- We went Door to Door to Introduce Ourselves
- We held Community Meetings
- We Brought Current Participants to Meetings
- We Sent Letters to Neighbors in Community (within 2 blocks each direction)



Addressing Community Concerns

- Invited Police Agencies to meeting and let neighbors know police had full access
- Gave out our contact information for complaints
- Promised to keep yard a showplace
 - Grass always cut
 - Snow always shoveled
 - Flowers and vegetable garden
- Allow police dogs to practice drug sniffing
- Addressed traffic concerns/ off street parking
- Held Open House so neighbors could see the home
 - Burglar alarm (to keep them in as well as others out at night)
 - Breathalyzer
 - Drug Test Kits
 - House Rule Book



Joliet house gets addicts 'back on track'

Will County Drug Court program wins approval for second group home after a year of 'no problems' in first

BY BOB OKON

bokon@stmedianetwork.com

JOLIET — When Will County Drug Court sought city approval this month for a second group home in Joliet for recovering drug addicts, something interesting happened. Which was not much.

No residents showed up at city hall to oppose the group home in the 200 block of Lime Street, and Joliet City Council members approved a special-use permit for the house with little comment.

It was a different atmosphere from a year ago when the drug court's first group home was met with suspicion and controversy.

When the group homes work as planned, they shouldn't attract much attention. And, that has been the experience at the first home on Frank Street.

Recovering drug addict Shawn Akison provided a tour of the house in the 200 block of Frank Street, where he has lived for the past eight months.

"This is where we have Sunday dinners," Akison said, stopping at a dining room table large enough for the six residents and house supervisor.

Everybody in the house works, and schedules vary, Akison said. But on Sundays, they make it a point to have dinner together. The residents take turns cooking.

"We sit down and talk about how our week went," Akison said. "We talk about what needs to be done around the house."

In some ways, life inside the drug court home is more like traditional family life than found elsewhere on an

average American street. The residents share chores, talk about their problems and lean on each other for help.

Alcohol is banned from the house. So are illegal drugs.

House supervisor Bob Sullivan leads the household.

"We provide a safe, sober clean

environment so they can get back on track to being productive members of society," Sullivan said. "They're making a transition to get back to a regular, normal life. They are responsible for themselves. They cook for themselves. They are gainfully employed."

Of course, there are differences from a typical household, too.

If Akison or his fellow housemates don't have a job, they could be sent to jail. That's one of the rules in Will County Drug Court, a program that provides arrested drug users with an alternative to jail. The goal is to get the arrestees off of drugs and back to self-sufficiency.

Each time the residents come home to the Frank Street house, they breathe into an alcohol detector at the front door registers the results and sends them to the Will County State's Attorney's Office. Representatives from the state's attorney's office, which supervises the program, show up at the house on a regular basis.

Residents are subject to weekly, random drug tests. Anyone who fails is kicked out.

All in all, Akison said, the drug court house comes with a lot of assurances that the property will be occupied by a peaceful neighbor.

"We have curfews," Akison said. "Our curfew on weekdays is 11 p.m. Our curfew on weekends is midnight. You're never going to see us after midnight unless we're coming home from work."

Al Crawford lives on the other side of Frank Street and said, "I don't have any trouble at all with the people across the way."

Crawford never opposed the drug court house, he said, and has found the residents to be good neighbors who have helped him out at times.

'Solid track record'

Julie Sterr runs the drug court program for the state's attorney's office and said she believes the group home on Frank Street has proven itself over the past year.

"We have a solid track record now," Sterr said. "There have been



Shawn Akison has been a resident at the first Will County Drug Recovery Home in the 200 block of Frank Street for eight months. (PHOTOS BY MATTHEW GROTTO/SUNTIMES MEDIA)

no police calls, no problems."

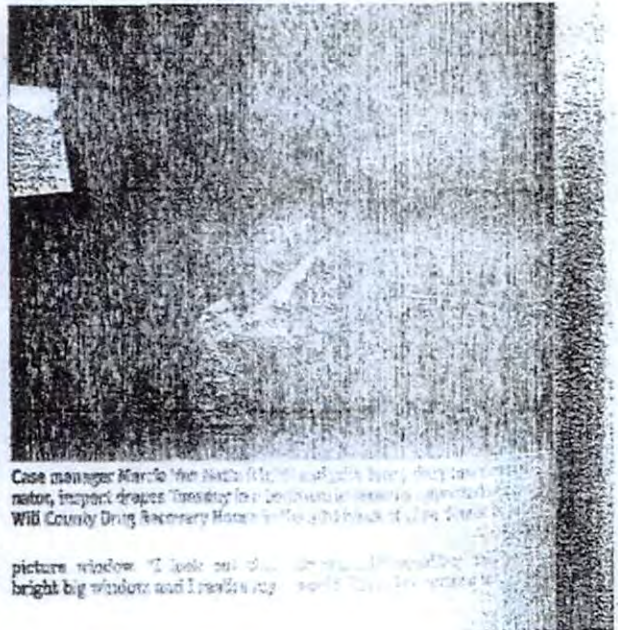
Residents are not at the house for treatment. But the environment does provide group support that helps in times of stress and guidance that should help when the residents are on their own. Residents stay anywhere from three months to a year.

"This isn't a flop house," Sterr said. "This gives them an opportunity to live in a structured program and gives them the tools they need so when they live in an apartment they have it all down."

Akison will be move to the recently approved Lime Street house when it's ready. That house is becoming the men's group home. The house on Frank Street will become the residence of six women making their way through Will County Drug Court.

Akison says he'll miss the Frank Street house and neighborhood.

"This gives me my dream," he said while sitting in the view of the neighborhood afforded by a large



Case manager Marie W. Smith (left) says she says the residents, frequent dropouts, stay in a structured, supportive environment at the Will County Drug Recovery Home in the 200 block of Frank Street. (PHOTOS BY MATTHEW GROTTO/SUNTIMES MEDIA)

Joliet neighbors sound off on rehab house plan

By Stewart Warren
SWARREN@SCN1.COM

JOLIET — At the southeast corner of Frank Avenue and Hickory Street, there is a house clad in sage-green siding.

Although the two-story is close to a busy section of Broadway, the working-class neighborhood is quiet. In the hours just before suppertime Tuesday, children rode skateboards in the middle of the street, and a fawn-colored pug dog and a Chihuahua trotted around unleashed.

Two tall pines grow on either side of the house's small front yard. Out near the curb, a "for sale" sign is stuck in the grass, a red sticker proclaiming "under contract" on its front.

That's why nearly 40 people gathered Tuesday night at St. Mary Nativity Catholic Church, 706 Broadway. The officials who run Will County's drug court program want to buy the property at 212 Frank Ave. and use it as a recovery home.

A few of the neighbors are for the plan. Others aren't.

Drug court

Established in 1999 by Will County Judge Stephen White, Will County State's Attorney Jim Glasgow and others, the drug court pro-

gram functions as an alternative to prison or jail for nonviolent offenders who have a drug problem, said Julie McCabe-Sterr. One of Glasgow's employees, she is its well-respected coordinator.

The program is not for everyone, she said Tuesday.

"If there is a relationship between their crime and their drug addiction, they might be eligible. In other words, they would not have committed the crime if not for their addiction." The people in drug court typically have been arrested and charged for crimes such as theft, forgery and prostitution.

If admitted into drug court, defendants remain there for at least a year. Some stay two years or longer.

At first they must appear in front of Will County Judge Carla Alesio Policandriotes — a judge known not only for her fairness but her lack of tolerance for nonsense — once a week.

Anyone who is late or misses a mandatory appointment goes to jail.

"The judge will tell you going into the program, there's only two ways you get out — graduate or go to prison," McCabe-Sterr said.

Participants are randomly drug tested and must undergo counseling.

"The intention of the program is to break the cycle of addiction that drives the criminal behavior," McCabe-Sterr said.

'Not enough'

About three years ago, the drug court officials began kicking around the idea of opening a recovery house.

"There are simply not enough recovery beds in the area. Stepping Stones is an outstanding drug treatment facility but they always have a waiting list," McCabe-Sterr said. "So we send them out to other cities and counties where it is much harder for us to supervise them. Then they return to Joliet — where they don't have a job — and they return to independent living or family situations that aren't always conducive to their recovery."

Will County residents won't foot the bill for the recovery house, McCabe-Sterr said. A few years ago, a new fee was created

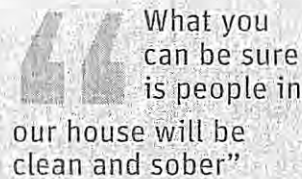
to fund the project, and it's paid by people who are charged with crimes.

"No local money, no taxpayer money will be used," McCabe-Sterr said.

Six to live in home

The Will County Board voted to approve the purchase of the Frank Avenue house.

At 1:30 p.m. Nov. 19, Joliet's zoning board of appeals will consider the



What you
can be sure
is people in
our house will be
clean and sober"

Julie McCabe-Sterr
drug court coordinator

issue. Before the recovery house can be opened, the board must grant a variation of use because there is a group home operated by

Cornerstone on nearby Center Street, McCabe-Sterr explained.

If the variance is granted, the officials would like to open the Frank Street home early next year, perhaps in February or March.

Six people would live there — five trying to change their lives and one manager.

'Pushers or doers?'

But the group who attended the meeting at the church Tuesday didn't

seem to like anything about the proposal. Their faces were grim, and their attitudes bordered on hostile.

"Why did you pick a high-density area like this?" asked Robert Rogel, citing houses for sale a few blocks north without so many people living nearby.

McCabe-Sterr explained that the Frank Avenue house is close to a Pace bus stop, an office that provides temporary workers to businesses and a club for recovering addicts.

She also asked the addresses of the homes Rogel mentioned. "I shouldn't have to write that down," Rogel snapped.

Another man in the audience asked how the home would affect the value of his property. Not at all, McCabe-Sterr answered, adding that drug addicts can rent any home or apartment and no one would be the wiser.

"What you can be sure is people in our house will be clean and sober," she said. If not, they will be kicked out.

"Will these be drug pushers or drug doers?" asked Ken Hrusosky.

People who have been charged with delivery of a controlled substance aren't allowed to join drug court,

McCabe-Sterr said.

Many of the people who oppose the house believe there already are enough problems in the neighborhood.

"Put them on Black Road where there are people with plenty of money," urged Tony Campise Jr.

'OK with that'

Despite the strong opposition, at least one person — a registered nurse who has spent most of her life on nearby Elizabeth Street — backs the plan. Georgene Williams, 62, believes in giving people another chance.

"It is a rehab facility, and I would rather see people in rehab up here than people who aren't," Williams said. "At least they are trying."

When a neighbor told her about the plans, Williams did some research.

"I was impressed with the program, with their thoroughness," she said.

Williams has tried to spread the word about the program.

"I have asked my neighbors what their opinion is, and most of them feel the same way I do," she said. "These are people in rehab, they are being monitored and we are OK with that."

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