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CLARK COUNTY
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BOARD OF
COUNTY COUNCILORS

November 16, 2015

Councilor Madore
Board of County Councilors
Clark County
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666

Dear Councilor Madore,

This letter is to provide support for the recent request that Daybreak Youth Services has sent you in regards to their need for an emergency ordinance to address a zoning barrier on a piece of property in rural Brush Prairie. They have been planning and working to expand their youth inpatient treatment services for well over a year. As indicated by the data they provided you, the availability of inpatient treatment beds is at a point of crisis - not only in Clark County but across all of Washington State. There are only 58 treatment beds across the State to treat adolescents and of those total, adolescent females only have access to 16 beds. This lack of capacity constitutes an emergency for all families seeking treatment for their children during a time when getting help may be necessary to save their child's life. As indicated in their correspondence to you, their expansion will bring an additional 40 youth treatment beds to the area and will provide both mental health and substance use treatment.

As a partner in this county, Daybreak Youth Services has also been actively involved in the SWWA Early Adopter work. Very early on, they supported the early transition to fully integrated healthcare for citizens eligible for Medicaid. They understand how critical it is to be able to treat all aspects of a young person's healthcare needs. Their initial contact with families usually begins at a time when families are struggling the most. The ability to offer lifesaving treatment in Clark County rather than having to send their child elsewhere in the State allows parents to actively participate in their child's care on a consistent basis.

Again, we are in support of the emergency ordinance being requested which would allow the property in Brush Prairie that is currently zoned for a residential treatment home (10 beds or fewer) to be used for a residential treatment facility (greater than 10 beds).

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If you should have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Gaston', written in a cursive style.

Vanessa Gaston, Department Director
Clark County Dept. of Community Services

cc: Mark McCauley

Chris Horne

Annette Kleinfelter, Executive Director, Daybreak Youth Services