



Indiana University Health

February 2, 2021

Terre Haute Town Council,

My name is Spencer Medcalf. I am the lead Peer Recovery Coach (PRC) for the Virtual Behavioral Health Team. I supervise a team of 6 other PRCs that are meeting with individuals struggling with substance use in 13 Emergency Departments across the I.U. Health System. Often, when we are meeting with patients in EDs they are interested in various treatment and recovery pathways. Our role is to help them decide which pathway will be best for them. Residential treatment is often an option discussed and selected by the patients we meet with.

Hickory Recovery Network has been an excellent partner to work with. We often refer patients interested in residential treatment to them. Historically, residential centers for females have been limited in the state of Indiana. Therefore, news of Hickory Recovery Network adding female residential beds was exciting to many of us in the larger recovery community. This helps fill a gap in services for not only people living in Terre Haute, but the state.

I ask that the Council members vote in such a manner that would not only benefit their constituents but fellow Hoosiers as well. We know that 1 in 7 Americans struggle with Substance Use Disorder or know someone who does. It is very likely that one of you may get a call from a friend or loved one seeking help with their substance use.

I ask that you vote to allow Hickory Recovery Network to continue with their noble mission of promoting and providing access to residential treatment. Often, if a female wants residential treatment there is a lengthy waitlist, regardless of facility. Adding this facility will help reduce that burden on the system. I am tired of telling female patients, that are ready to change and learn a new way to live, drug and alcohol free, that they can go to treatment but it may be several weeks before a bed is secured. This

decision will not only impact the potential female clients, but also, their family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc.

Regards,

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