

La Crosse Tribune**October 6th Letter to the Editor**

Tellurian Behavioral Health is seeking to open a second Crisis Center location near East Avenue and Jackson Street in La Crosse.

Neighbors in the area object to the center for reasons such as property values, the transient nature of those being served, police presence and that the people coming into such a place are in crisis. I implore those in that neighborhood to understand that such a facility is there to provide a safe environment for citizens struggling with mental health concerns, not because they are disruptive, dangerous or violent, etc.

Too often people associate those with mental health difficulties as trouble, which only exacerbates the stigma of being diagnosed with a mental health diagnosis. Those served at such a facility are looking for help, and the La Crosse area needs more providers willing to provide that help.

Suicide is on the rise and people struggle with mental health difficulties on a daily basis. The proposed second center would be located in an area, while residential in nature, that is near local clinics and hospitals, as well as other providers that may be able to meet the needs of those residing there. It's also on the bus line.

The La Crosse City Council will vote on whether to approve the Crisis Center location Oct. 12. I ask that the neighborhood folks and the city council see this as an opportunity to help human beings in need, because it's the right thing to do. Please approve the second Crisis Center location.

Darren Dannhoff