

Call to action

October 31, 2024



Keep Colville Safe is asking concerned local residents to contact city officials and ask for a six month “moratorium” on the siting of any new behavioral health facilities to allow time to study the issues and to adequately consider the various ordinances available to comply.

To email the Colville Council:

- Brandon Hatch- brandonhatch@colville.wa.us
- Vickie Strong- vickiestrong@colville.wa.us
- Ben Cosby- bencosby@colville.wa.us
- Thomas Carpenter- thomascarpenter@colville.wa.us
- Ben Nielsen- bennielsen@colville.wa.us
- Robin Kurowski- robinkurowski@colville.wa.us

To email the Colville Planning Commission:

- Send Email to sgilmore@colville.wa.us and it will be forwarded to the commission.

Email the Mayor

- Jack Smith- jacksmith@colville.wa.us

Possible Talking points on these issues:

- Colville does not have the law enforcement or emergency services necessary to handle any more “behavioral” problems. These public services are already overstressed and are diverting limited resources from the responsible taxpaying public.
- The amount of federal and state money being devoted to the siting of behavioral health facilities in small towns virtually guarantees that large numbers of facilities will be built in our community, regardless of the local need for them. These facilities *will* be filled--if not with people from our county, then with people from the outside.
- The City of Colville has acted hastily, without fully considering the needs of this town or the costs and burdens to be born by local residents and businesses. What studies has the City Council commissioned and/or considered that would support the local need for these facilities? What investigation has been done with respect to the experience of other small towns (Chewelah) that have allowed these facilities to be freely sited in their communities? Where are the studies regarding the success and/or failure rates of these facilities?

- The City has the ability to declare a “moratorium” on the siting of any new behavioral health facilities to allow time to study the problem and to consider the various options. Why has the City Council not availed itself of this option?
- The overwhelming majority of the behavioral health facilities addressed by the ordinance are unlocked, voluntary facilities. People can, and regularly do, simply walk out of them.
- Statistics show that people with mental health and drug use most always co-exist. Why do none of the behavioral health/drug treatment facilities contemplated by the proposed zoning code require that clients be drug-free?
- What provision has the City of Colville made to assure that people who leave these facilities do not simply add to the already out-of-control homeless/drug problem in this community?
- Why does the proposed zoning ordinance not distinguish between the vast array of behavioral health facility types--some of which involve only minor impacts to the community (e.g., counseling centers) and some which have very devastating effects (e.g., intensive behavioral health treatment facilities)?
- Why has the City of Colville planned to put all behavioral health facilities--including the most dangerous and damaging ones to the community--in the two commercial zones (C-2 and C-3) which encompass its downtown core?
- Why has the City of Colville done nothing to encourage the siting of “zero tolerance” programs (e.g., Union Gospel Mission) based upon principles of personal responsibility and accountability to the community?
- How does a community whose major industry is “social services” survive in the long term?
- What has the City of Colville done to support local small business owners who bear the brunt of the damage inflicted by people with behavioral problems?
- Why is homeless transitional housing being allowed to be sited in single family zones? What recourse exists for the family who has worked a lifetime to own their own home only to find that their worst nightmare has come true: that it is not safe for their children to play in the yard and that they cannot move because their home is unsellable at almost any price?
- Why is the City allowing a contract planner determine what is “best” for our community?
- Why is the City Council spending much of its time in meetings talking about flower boxes and murals to the exclusion of important issues such as this?

To get more information and learn more about these issues, Please visit www.saveourstatewa.com or join the facebook group: Keepcolvillesafe. We will be uploading and sharing information daily as it becomes available. Thank you in advance for standing up for our community.

Please attend the November 4th, 2024 Planning commission meeting at 170 South Oak Street, Colville, WA. Keep Colville Safe will have a rally (signs welcome) starting at 5pm with several speakers. The planning commission meeting will start at 6pm. Please consider speaking at the planning commission meeting.