



Wisconsin Community Services  
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January 4, 2018

City of Waukesha  
Planning Commission  
201 Delafield Street  
Waukesha, WI 53188

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing you in support of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and urge you to rezone the parcel of land at 2000 W. Bluemound Road in Waukesha, WI from Manufacturing to Institutional.

I have worked in the Adult Court Service Programs at Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) in Waukesha for more than twenty years. I have also been a member of the AODA Advisory Committee to the Waukesha County Human Services Board for almost ten years and a member of the Waukesha County Heroin and Other Illicit Drug Task Force for the past three years. Throughout the years and in each of these roles, I have worked numerous times with Lutheran Social Services and their staff. My experiences have been nothing but positive. I find staff to be easy to work with, professional, and committed to their jobs. I have known LSS Program Supervisor, Jim Aker, during the past twenty years and he is cooperative, professional, and very committed to the needs to those who struggle with substance abuse. LSS are active members on the AODA Advisory Committee and the Heroin Task Force to assist in addressing substance abuse in Waukesha County. Jim Aker was also nominated by his peers on the AODA Advisory Committee to chair the committee which speaks to his commitment to the recovery community.

The Genesis House in Waukesha has been in their current location for more than forty years. I have had many of my program participants enroll in the Genesis House program. These participants have struggled with addiction for years and Genesis House provided a safe and stable living environment coupled with providing AODA counseling to assist in their recovery. More than once, they have reported the program saved their life.

Waukesha County is not alone in their struggle to address the opioid epidemic as it sweeps across our country. I was the chair prior to Jim Aker of the AODA Advisory Committee. Each of those four years, I presented the committee's unmet needs to the Human Services Board. Each year, we identified the need for more inpatient programs in Waukesha County as well as the need for a women's residential facility. LSS has been committed to developing and filling these needs in Waukesha County. All their hard work and commitment is before you now and I urge you to rezone the parcel of land. By doing so, you will be allowing LSS to bring these needs to the residents of Waukesha County who are struggling

with addiction. These residents are our family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. All of us are impacted by substance abuse in our county and this is an opportunity for you to help us in our battle. This battle will not be won without treatment facilities operated by committed, professional, and compassionate people. LSS has all these things.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter and urge you again to vote in favor of the rezoning.

Sincerely,

Rose M. Barton  
Assistant Program Director-Adult Court Services  
Wisconsin Community Services

Member of the Waukesha County AODA Advisory Committee to the Human Services Board  
Member of the Waukesha County Heroin and other Illicit Drugs Task Force  
Waukesha County Resident

