

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

FCS EIP Addr	EFL C	Please provide input regarding the highest and best use of the Arizona State Hospital property related to requests for proposals for a Public Private Partnership.
		Open-Ended Response
		<p>Neonatal Absitence Recovery Center. I work in a NICU and this is not the right environment for these special babies, infant quite the opposite. It does not enable a soothing environment, or accommodate parents spending large amounts of time with their infants to aid recovery of both. Someplace like the proposed Hushabye nursery would be a greatly needed resource and amazing use of your spaces, being centrally located, it could draw from many area hospitals to provide a more healing environment for these special babies and their families.</p>
		Hushabye Nursery for the specific care of drug withdrawal babies.
		<p>What Arizona needs more than anything is adequate housing and treatment facilities for our smi citizens. What better place to create a Psychiatric Center of Excellence than the land around the Arizona State Hospital!! This property is already secured with fencing which is needed to keep our smi loved ones from being able to walk off and leave their housing because of an episode that they are going through at the time. Some, not all, smi can have violent tendencies especially if they are not properly medicated. For their own safety as well as the safety of our communities, we need them to have safe housing which restricts them from running the streets and possibly getting in trouble or, hurting someone or themselves. Our smi citizens need to be protected as do all of our citizens and therefore we need to create additional "safe" housing and adequate treatment facilities so our smi aren't left to be taken care by our jails and prisons....this is unacceptable. Please do the right thing and create a Psychiatric Center of Excellence!</p>

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I am a full time practicing neonatologist with almost 30 years experience of working in NICU and taking care of opioid withdrawal neonates. I am very concerned with our rising rates for opioid drug withdrawal babies (NAS) and need for appropriate, uniform standard of care for these NAS babies so that there is best possible neurodevelopmental outcome for these vulnerable neonates. Most of these neonates do not respond to usual nonpharmacological measures namely, swaddling, minimum stimulation, rocking, frequent and increased calories feeds, noise reduction and observation of light- night environment with Bundling of nursing care. Despite nonpharmacological treatment about 70 % of them will still require standardized treatment with medications and meticulous weaning. Some may even need more than one medication for example, oral morphine and clonidine or, oral morphine with clonidine and phenobarbital. Despite side effects from medications, the benefits/risks ratio favors medical therapy as untreated drug withdrawal may cause neonatal seizures with increased morbidity. Not only the standard initiation therapy but also standard and uniform protocol for escalation, maintenance and weaning need to be followed. Staff are also required to do modified Finnegan drug withdrawal scoring as based on scores the crucial decisions for pharmacological initiation are made. Knowing that there will be a special quiet place dedicated to treatment of these vulnerable at risk neonates away from noisy usual NICU at hospitals will be extremely helpful. Hushaby nursery is one of such model. Not only Hushaby nursery will provide appropriate home with all multidisciplinary services at one site with medical home and supervision by highly qualified staff but also will help in decreasing the need for use of pharmacological treatment. It is anticipated that besides decrease in use of medications, Hushaby Nursery may also decrease the total length of stay and save increasing cost of medical treatment that currently these newborns receive at busy NICU units. Hope AZ state property can be donated appropriately for such noble cause. Thank you for your support.

The best use would be to provide the space to Hushaby nursery. Hushaby is seeking to care for the smallest victims and be families of those born passively addicted to opioids. It is well known that this public health crisis needs to be addressed immediately and this would be a strong step in the right direction.

Hushaby Nursery

I propose the space be used for drug withdrawal babies. These babies need really quiet, low stimulus and family friendly environments to best recover and the state hospital facility could provide that environment for them.

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I am writing this statement in support of the Hushabye Nursery proposal for the Public Private Partnership use of the Arizona State Hospital. I am a neonatologist who has practiced in Arizona for 30 years. I have cared for neonates who have been exposed to a variety of drugs/medications in utero in the hospital. I have also seen this children in developmental follow-up clinics over this time. I have served as the Medical Director for the NICP Follow-up Clinics in the state when that program was funded. I also served on the Governor's Interagency Coordination Council (for PL-94-457 or AZEIP). Finally, I have personal experience with DCS as a CASA and foster parent so have had direct experience with the current legal system which is often involved with this population of substance exposed infants. With this experience I am very familiar with the population of infants and families who will be served by Hushabye Nursery. I believe that this is an innovative project that will be a great service to these families as well as the community in general. It is well known that the optimal parent for any child is his or her biological parent, if that parent is able to provide a safe and nurturing environment for that child. It is also known that the addition of a newborn to a family system is an opportunity for change in the family. By helping mothers care for their newborns in a nurturing environment Hushabye Nursery will provide the transitional support these families need to be successful. This setting hopefully will also reduce the time necessary for medical treatment for the infant's symptoms. It will allow for appropriate use of hospital NICU beds for the patients who really need intensive care. It will certainly be a more financially responsible approach for these babies which should lessen the cost of medical care for these families. I am available for any questions or concerns regarding my support of this proposal. Mary K. Allare, M. D. Medical Director Developmental Follow-up Clinic Phoenix Perinatal Associates 480-767-1490

Mental health services for people involved with criminal justice system - jails should not be de facto asylums.

Hushabye Nursery Is Perfect For this!

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On behalf of the member companies who make up the Arizona Association of Health Plans (AzAHP), I write to share with you our comments regarding the Arizona Department of Health Services plan to improve and enhance the behavioral health services available to our community and create a Center of Psychiatric Excellence on the Arizona State Hospital Campus. We were proud to support the bill that established this authority as it moved through the legislative process, and are happy to lend our voice as you move forward; indeed, several of our member companies have responded with their specific ideas for the work you are undertaking. Our purpose in these comments is to share with you our dismay over the shortsighted decision by CMS last July to restrict federal funding for services received in Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) by AHCCCS members aged 21-64. New Federal Rule 42 C.F.R. 438.6(e) prohibits the use of federal Medicaid funding if these members are in IMDs for more than 15 days during a calendar month. Arizona, which has one of the most cost-effective and long-running Medicaid managed care programs in the Nation, has used IMD facilities without arbitrary time restrictions for our most vulnerable patients in need of a specific level of care, proving that it is a cost-effective way for our patients to have access to behavioral health services in the most appropriate settings. This new 15-day limit has placed significant restrictions on current bed availability, the impact of which will guarantee bad outcomes for our patients; more costly care for the state; and community level hardship, particularly in rural areas, with provider networks and bed capacity already stretched to the limit. However you ultimately decide to develop the Center of Psychiatric Excellence, we hope it will include new behavioral health beds that can be used for our most vulnerable patients, in an appropriate setting outside of the 15-day limitation. We are hopeful these comments will inform your decision making about the need for new beds, especially in the near term, and are most grateful for this opportunity to share our concerns with you. Deb Gullett, on behalf of the Arizona Association of Health Plans

I think it should be used as a level two nursery for babies born exposed to substances.

Hushabye Nursery

Hushabye Nursery

I believe that should have the use of space for the infants going through withdrawals. Those children didn't have a choice to go through that kind of pain, it was from the consequences of others. Having that special space for them would be such a blessing for the little ones. For them to feel comfortable and loved, won't just help them now but it will benefit them greatly in their future.

Hushbye Nursery

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I believe that there could not be a better way to use this available facility than for babies born with addiction. These babies start their lives out with a huge disadvantage, and depend on the kindness of non-family entities to get them through the painful stages of withdrawal. Thankfully there are people who have a heart for these little ones, and having an excellent facility to do excellent work is all they need to do one of the most important jobs in the medical field that I can think of. Thank you, Sabrina Macey

Infant drug withdrawal is spreading across the helpless population of the new born at an unprecedented rate. These infants need special care unique to their diagnosis. While NICUs are perfectly capable of caring for this population, it is not at all the ideal setting for their success and recovery and bonding as they suffer intensely. Hushabye Nursery is a compassionate and expertly designed environment for these vulnerable and entirely innocent victims of their diseases. This opening is best suited for the use of those least able to be in control of their experiences and most deserving of support from the community and state at large. I offer this suggestion as an RN who has cared countless hours for numberless babies suffering intensely from the consequences of choices far beyond their control. Please consider, seriously, allowing for Hushabye Nursery. Thank you

Hushabye Nursery will benefit the community and families for the valley for an epidemic that seems to be growing.

I am a NICU nurse in Mesa, AZ and the growing number of babies being treated for drug exposure and addiction is an epidemic in our state. These babies need special care and a place that is dedicated to giving them the care they need in a location specialized for them, outside of a busy, loud nicu environment

As I am sure you know, we are in the middle of an opioid crisis and drugs like heroin are making a big comeback. I am a NICU nurse and have taken care of newborn babies who were drug exposed in utero as they go through withdrawal. Some of these babies spend anywhere from 4-8 weeks in the Neonatal ICU. Hushabye Nursery would offer a better environment for these little ones to receive the care that they need along with helping their mothers with the resources they need to one day be able to care for their babies, while getting off drugs themselves. I think a partnership with Hushabye Nursery would be a great use of your space. Hushabye Nursery is being led by two neonatal nurse practitioners with years of experience caring for these drug exposed babies. Contact Kelly Woody or Tara Sundem for more info. You can find Hushabye Nursery on Facebook.

I SUPPORT The Arizona Department of Health Services identified 131 beds, office space and vacant land that could be leased to private operators. Suggested uses include a psychiatric emergency room, urgent psychiatric services and residential treatment and DISCOURAGE Diagnoses by placing greater weight on addictions versus treating the mental illness first that often drives SMI person to self-medicate only to find they are brushed under the rug on the grounds that their illness is self-inflicted by voluntary use of drugs. Please continue to fund and provide resources to keep America Mentally Healthy Thank you. Linda Marie Brown, Esq.

Need to have more than 55 beds for the persons most severely-afflicted with serious mental illness who absorb cost as they endlessly cycle between residential treatment programs (temporary, strict rules, get kicked out), streets, hospitals, jails, emergency rooms, etc. We have no 55-bed cap for sufferers of Alzheimers, cancer, heart problems; why such a limit for sufferers of serious mental illness.

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I believe Hushabye would be a great asset to the community. Thousands of babies are born every year suffering from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Studies show that these babies thrive and do better when they are able to recover with the love of their mother with the support of specially trained medical staff. Please give careful consideration to the support of this very specialized but greatly needed facility.

I am writing to share my personal experience as an RN who has spent the last 8yrs caring for newborn infants who have experienced withdrawal symptoms resulting from mothers addicted to opiates after they are born in a hospital setting. In my opinion it would be far more beneficial to the medical community, the families of these infants and most importantly the infants themselves to have the surroundings that are most ideal for them to be assisted in a therapeutic yet comfortable secure environment as they navigate the road to wellness . The hospitals are being inundated with infants of drug addicted mothers and they are being placed in the same hospital units as premature ill babies that require very different care. Often the lights and monitors in the particular area of the NICU alone are so problematic in attempting to provide the environment that is critically needed for the infant with NAS Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome that it often results in the infants requiring increases in medications and extended hospital stays. I have taken care of babies who were hospitalized for as long as 8 to 10 weeks. This is so difficult for the families who come each day sometimes several times a day to care for their babies. It would be such a welcome change to have a designated center,that could be staffed by the caring medical community members that are so concernid about providing a 'home like"setting to parents and children who could potentially change their lives or at the very least realize the implications of the opiate epidemic and understand by seeing point blank how infants suffer through this process. Hopefully this could positively impact their entire family, and in turn be an example to others of the possibility of change and hope for the future

Hushaby Nursery!

The highest and best use of the ASH property is for entities that align services with mental health. There is a need for additional longterm care for the severely mentally ill. In addition the property can be used for other services that may assist in diagnosing and treating mental illness for people that may lead a functioning life with medication, therapy and support services. Hushabye Nursery will be treating substance-exposed infants and working with community partners to provide care and support for the moms and families for recovery. The CRU building is ideal for Hushabye Nursery and provides space for partners to provide services on site. Hushabye Nursery is a startup non-profit that will provide necessary services for these infants and their families. We will appreciate your serious consideration of this input. Antoinette Sheen, BOD Treasurer, Hushabye Nursery

This space would best be used to address and treat the babies affected by NAS in Arizona. Hushabye Nursery is a great organization ready to take on a space a put it to use.

The best use for this property would be to establish a neonatal recovery unit, for babies born with opioid dependency who must go through withdrawal. This would be the perfect place for Hushabye Nursery. There were 346 babies diagnosed with NAS since June15, 2017, an these are the tiniest victims of the opioid epidemic!

Please use the Hushabye Nursery.

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As much expansion as possible!!!! I am currently living the same nightmare as the people are experiencing in the article with my [redacted] year old [redacted] ([redacted]). The current system takes an extreme reactive approach to treatment and seems to intentionally or not drive people to be in jail or homeless. A more proactive approach in providing more treatment sooner would probably reduce money spent jailing people and on treatment plans doomed to fail. Last but not least save lives. I think maybe part of the problem is the understanding of what mental illness is. Until my [redacted] was diagnosed at age [redacted] I had no clue what the illness was and to this day still very difficult to comprehend. Talking with people and even many professionals who have not lived with the illness don't understand it's nature and it power over there thinking. Please help! They deserve a better chance.

Hushabye nursery

Hushabye Nursery

Hushabye nursery needs a facility to provide needed care to NAS neonates in an appropriate place.

Hushabye Nursery for NAS babies and their mom's. I'm a NICU nurse and the NICU is not the best place for babies and mom's to get the care they need, to withdraw, and to learn to care for a difficult baby. Please. I have worked with both of these women and they are amazing! I know they can help in these desperate times.

Hushabye Nursery is the best use for Arizona State Hospital Property. "346 babies have been diagnosed with NAS- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/drug addiction in AZ since June 15, 2017. Hushabye Nursery in Phoenix will treat these innocent victims and provide outreach to addicted mothers in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment.

Hushabye Nursery for infants exposed to opiates and other narcotics

PLEASE highly consider this land for the use of Hushabye Nursery...a much needed place for infants affected by their mothers drug usage!!!

Hushabye Nursery is the best use for Arizona State Hospital Property. "346 babies have been diagnosed with NAS- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/drug addiction in AZ since June 15, 2017. Hushabye Nursery in Phoenix will treat these innocent victims and provide outreach to addicted mothers in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment

This space would be perfect Hushabye Nursery. The valley (unfortunately) needs a facility for NAS babies to grow and thrive. It is a very specialized type of care they need and Hushaby is committed to this cause.

Please allow the Hushabye Nursery organization to utilize State Hospital property. There is a dire need for their services and the location is most appropriate for their population.

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I spoke at the hearing on Nov. 16. I thought there would be a time limit, so tried to keep my remarks short. However, I would like to add something at this time. When my [redacted] first became ill, we worked with our pediatrician and a psychologist who treated him first for Severe Depression. When it became obvious that the anti-depressant and counseling were not effective and that he was getting worse, we were advised to see a psychiatrist. It took many phone calls to find a doctor whose office didn't offer to put us on a waiting list. Dr. James Schulte's office gave us an appointment for the next week. After spending time with my [redacted] and then hearing from me, Dr. Schulte recommended hospitalization to begin treatment and stabilize. He handed me a prescription slip with R/O [redacted] on it and told me I would have to find a hospital bed. Coming from a nursing background, I was stunned. What other acute or chronic illness would require a patient to search for their own bed? I went home and started calling, eventually making my way through what seemed like every hospital in this valley. They all had a waiting list. Finally, a friend who worked as a receptionist in an outpatient mental health clinic told me to take our son to an emergency room. She said they would have to admit him then. She suggested the Adolescent Behavioral Health triage at [redacted]. This was [redacted]. We did that immediately. He was evaluated there and the doctors spoke with us and concurred that our [redacted] needed hospitalization. However, they didn't have any beds and would put him on the waiting list. We went home so discouraged, but praying for help. The next afternoon a nurse from that unit called and asked if we could have our [redacted] there within the hour. She told us they had an unexpected discharge and although our [redacted] was further down on the waiting list, the doctors felt his symptom presentation warranted him getting in first. We were there in 40 minutes. That began the 10 year trial & error period searching for what medication regimen would work for him. He was only there for 4-5 days, so it was incumbent upon the family to assess his response. More long-term beds, please. Thank you! [redacted]

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The opioid epidemic in the US has created a massive increase in addicted newborns. For what is generally a smooth transition for most infants, is a very challenging one for these vulnerable infants. This population is in great need of a supportive environment to help them come through this transition in life. Currently there is a great urgency to establish a facility to house these babies and their mother in order to promote a smoother transition and outcome for both mother and child. This coupling of both mother and infant helps establish this tender relationship and for both to gain coping skills for further success beyond the nursery. This state has proven time and again that it recognizes the needs of newborns and will dedicate the resources required to promote a better outcome for this next generation. As life so often does we are here again with new challenges and must address these challenges from all directions. Of course get a hold of this option epidemic and also take care of those babies that for no fault of their own are in the throes of this medical emergency.

Hushabye Nursery

Music Therapy would be an outstanding addition. I know of an exceptional therapist. Her name is Cindy Steen

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Please please let Hush A Bye Nursery have this facility. I am a registered nurse and have worked closely with drug addicted babies for over 3 years now. I have seen them go from struggling suffering little humans to smiling bundles of joy. But it is an intensive long process. It takes many loving caring hands to nurse these fragile infants to health. And once they are over the worst of withdrawing it is only the beginning of lifetime of challenges. That being said, the most critical time for these infants is in the beginning of life. It truly takes a team, a village, to get these babies through the worst. From the neonatologists, nurse practitioners, nurses, parent(s), extended families and volunteers. It takes us all. What I have seen from the beginning is that a hospital is the worst place for a drug addicted baby. They need a quiet nurturing space to recover such as your facility. One that is conducive to having mommy and daddy able to stay 24/7 and contribute to the recovery process. Not only does it greatly help the recovering baby, it helps the parents stay clean too. It helps to keep a family together and maybe out of the overwhelmed DCS system. Hospitals are noisy and busy. NICU's where these babies end up, are notoriously noisy and busy. Families do not have places to stay. They have no privacy. No place to rest. I get horribly worried when I think of our country in 10 to 20 years when these drug addicted babies reach adulthood. I truly believe if we intervene at the earliest possible time in the process that we can send these babies and their families into a better future. I implore you that you carefully consider the facility go to Hush A Bye Nursery. This isn't the type of facility we need. It can become the first of many that we unfortunately need and needed yesterday. Please be part of our journey. Sincerely, Debbie Young RN

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I support hushabye nursery

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Hushabye nursery for infants born with abstinence syndrome

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I feel strongly that this building should be made into a Hushabye Nursery. This facility would be dedicated to babies born addicted to drugs. Sadly, these days this is a vastly growing problem and a lot of these addicted mothers don't have the guidance on how to take care of their babies and the special attention they need while detoxing. Not only would it be a major benefit to these poor babies in pain but it educates these mothers and in most cases motivates them to turn their lives around. These babies need special attention and care not many nurses are patient or knowledgeable enough to give. Please. This such a a sad topic that is so easily overlooked.

Hushaby Nursery desperately needs this property. I have been a NICU nurse/lactation consultant for 18 years. I have never seen so many babies withdrawing from opioids as I have in the past few years. It is heart wrenching to watch these babies suffer the effects of their mothers' addictions. These little babies would thrive in an environment like Hushaby. Let's help the most innocent and vulnerable victimstims of our nations. opioid epidemic. Thank you.

Hush A Bye nursery is so needed! This would be a wonderful place for them to get going!

Hushabye nursery

hushabye nurshery

We need the Hushabye Nursery as it would be the very best use of a facility. These babies need our help! Please consider Hushabye for this facility. Thank you!

I believe our community would highly benefit from a partnership with your facility and Hush-a-bye Nursery. This partnership will benefit the babies of our community and state that are affected by the opioid substance abuse during pregnancy. These babies suffer from neonatal abstinence syndrome(NAS). These infants are the innocent victims of said substance abuse and the withdraw symptoms and process they endure are utterly heartbreaking. Hush-a-bye Nursery will provide the optimal environment for these innocently affected infants to recover and receive the proper care needed as they endure their own private anguish of withdraw. The current almost daily newsworthy opioid epidemic is nothing new to the nurses who have been caring for withdraw(NAS) infants for years, it's just now instead of 1, maybe 2 infants in the NICU, there are 3-6 or more at a time suffering from NAS. It would be a huge misjustice to not have Hushabye nursery partner with ASH to open their nursery and provide the needed environment for these infants to recover in a caring, supportive and most importantly—quite place, but also to support the families involved to have the best possible outcomes with the goals and mission of what Hushabye nursery aims to achieve. Please highly consider Hushabye nursery in your proposal to partner with Arizona state hospital to open their much highly needed facility.

Hushabye nursery

Allowing hushabye nursery in the property would be a fantastic use of this resource. They will offer critical services to the most vulnerable children in our state.

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

I work in the Special Care Nursery at Banner Gateway. We have seen a marked increase in NAS babies...those exposed to opioids during gestation. The care they require needs to be provided in a setting appropriate for their condition which sadly is not the typical NICU environment. They need a quiet place with dimmed lighting and soothing stimulation...not monitors beeping and bright lights. Most of all they need to be held by caregivers, volunteers and especially by their parents. Different levels of personnel could be hired with a Registered Nurse responsible to coordinate that care... Such a place is Hushabye Nursery... I personally know the NNP's Tara and Kelly who r overseeing this project...they r tremendous nurses and practioners and know exactly what NAS babies require to get through the addiction with which they were innocently born?? It is such a needed service in our community you have no idea how real the epidemic is and how many newborns are being affected... If you heard their high-pitched cries and saw them trembling unable to eat or even such on a pacifier you would not hesitate to get onboard ...it is heartbreaking to witness but there r people here who care...I m one of them So is Hushabye Nursery... Please I beg of you to support this project?? Sincerely, Betty Ann Sarafin, RNC-OB, BA, BSN

Hushabye nursery for babies born with narcotic withdrawal

Emergency inpatient facility for mentally ill people.

Hushabye nursery It is absolutely needed! Drug exposed infants is such a growing problem and these babies need help! I can not imagine a more worthwhile cause then helping our babies!

Hushabye nursery. More help is needed as more and more babies are suffering.

NAS, Hushaby Nursery

Hushabye Nursery to provide specialized care for newborns who are withdrawing from opioids used by their mother during pregnancy

Us for facility for drug addicted babies to be held and rocked. Quiet environment for healing and recovery.

Hushabye Nursery is very needed in this area!

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Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

Hushaby Nursery would be a great use of the property. Opiate exposed babies need this now!

Hush a Bye Nursery would be so wonderful in this location. Our states drug exposed babies need a place to heal.... they deserve this!

Hushabye Nursery to care for the NAS babies. We need to address this epidemic. Women's Health Innovations which specializes in perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, trauma, and substance use disorders will also work with Hushabye to address the needs of the moms and family unit as well. This is essential in facilitating change. This is not only a issue for baby---this is a mom, family, partner and community issue. Thank you,
Michelle Lacy

Hush a Bye Nursery for drug exposed infants. This is needed now with this epidemic

I think the best use for this space would be for Hushabye Nursery. They are doing what no other medical facility has by providing the best care for the most fragile patients. These poor babies are born into a world of hurt and suffering and this nursery would be able to alleviate some of that for them. It would provide an environment for them to thrive in. Tara Sundem is already doing amazing things and by having this property available, she could continue to change the lives of families at a larger rate than she is now.

I would hope to see one of the buildings, preferably the property south of MIHS provided to Hushabye Baby a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) focused program that would support families in a way that is currently not occurring. NAS is on the rise with the last count since June being over 300. With preemptive care and wraparound services including DCS It is my believe that we can make Arizona Families safer with a program like this. It is important for a program like this to be neutral so all hospitals and system partners can coordinate with them for the families continuum of care. With preventative education, strong relationships, evidence based practices, and follow-up care for families this would be a great resources for the state.

Hushabye nursery for opioid addicted babies

Hushabye Nursery is focused on providing a therapeutic and inviting environment to care for infants suffering from the Opioid epidemic. They have numerous community collaborative partners and referrals from hospitals and fill a much-needed niche. We are Technical Assistance Partnership of Arizona (www.tapaz.org) and assist nonprofit organizations by serving as their fiscal sponsor, their back-end accounting and finance partner. We perform these back-office functions and have audited financials, and one of our groups is Hushabye Nursery. In caring for these infants suffering from NAS, they provide non-judgmental support, education and counseling to families in a cost-effective manner. Hushabye Nursery would thrive in this property near downtown Phoenix, as it is centrally-located and is nearly turn-key for what they provide, and will help the community in a big way. I highly recommend the state property for Hushabye Nursery.

Pleas consider for Hushabye nursery as we are in the midst of this opioid epidemic and our babies need the specialized help they deserve.
Sincerely, Concerned RN, mother and resident

Nursery for infants suffering from opiate withdrawal due to maternal opiate use.

NAS babies. Hushabye nursery would thrive here!

Hushabye nursery would be perfect for the use of your vacant land. Please approve rhem

Hushabye Nursury would be a great use of the space to help innocent victims who need love and care

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

<p>The property would be put to best use by allowing Hushabye Nursery to use it! This type of facility is so needed- I am a NICU nurse and see first hand the struggle these little newborns go through as they withdraw. A NICU is not the environment these babies need to be in to heal. Hushabye is exactly what they need & our state needs a facility like this, also! There are so many NAS babies in my unit alone on any given week- please allow Hushabye to provide a healing environment for these babies! They are so deserving & will make such a difference in our community!</p>
<p>A hospital for addicted babies is definitely the best use of that space. They need special care that a regular hospital just can't give them .</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>Hushabye nursery</p>
<p>Innocent babies need our help. This would be a perfect fit Hush a bye nursery</p>
<p>HushBye nursery to provide care for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). These are the tiniest victims of the opioid epidemic and they need a special focused place where they can get the care needed to withdraw from the drugs taken while they were in utero. I am a RN and worked in the Neonatal ICU for 13 years seeing so many newborns work through NAS. The busy NICU is the worst place for these little babies to be as it is bright, noisy, busy. Hushabye nursery IS so needed and this location would be perfect!!</p>
<p>Great idea to have hushaby babies here</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery for NAS babies</p>
<p>A portion of this site should be used to address the opioid crisis, specifically addressing the babies born addicted.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>Hushabye nursery would be the best use of this property. Tara sundem and Kelly Woody are two of the Best Nurse practitioners in The Valley. The rising amount of babies addicted to drugs is one of the many reasons why a nursery such as Hushabye nursery is needed in our valley. Thank you. Heather Laubmeier RN BSN</p>
<p>To be used for the Hushabye Nursery. With the amount of NAS babies being born in Maricopa county this space is HIGHLY Needed. This is only can be a plus for the atomsphere and the developmental aspect these babies will need throughout their lives.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery will benefit our smallest and most vulnerable patients.</p>
<p>Please support the Hushabye Nursery in their endeavor to provide love and caring to the innocent babies that are born addicted to their mother's drugs. Thank you.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery would be perfect for this location. So many moms and babies could benefit from having a place to stay together while the baby withdrawals and the mom continues to get back on track. This would be perfect!</p>
<p>The needs of the community would best be served with a place for drug addicted babies!</p>

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

I've been a neonatal nurse for 20 years and I've watched the incidence of opiate exposed newborns skyrocket. It is not uncommon for these poor addicted infants to make up 50% or greater of our census. They typically spend 1-2 miserable months withdrawing. The cost, mostly to taxpayers, of a Nicu bed for that amount of time is staggering. These babies and social situations are arguous to care for. It would be heaven sent for these babies to have a place to go that is ran and staffed by medical professionals that have a passion and an expertise in providing care to these babies and families as a whole, all the while saving tax dollars. Please allow Hushabye nursery to be this place. Amy Matas RN

The amount of drug addicted babies born every year just keeps rising and it's time they get a place that will help them recover in a more nurturing environment.

Hushaby Nursery for HAS babies!

Hushabye Nusery! Neonates experiencing need a place to recover and Hushabye Nursery will be perfect for that. As a nurse I have seen way too many neonates suffer from withdrawal. Please choose Hushabye Nursery.

Hushabye nursery

We need a facility that can handle newborns born addicted to opiates/drugs and a place where their parents, adopted parents, or foster parents can come and be with these babies while they are withdrawing from opiates/heroin/methadone/ect. NICUs are getting over run with these types of babies. It is now an EPIDEMIC! These babies need out of the noisy NICUs and into specialized care. The communities need this. Please accept Hushabye Nursery, this is an epidemic that is only getting worse and we are in desperate need for them. - NICU RN

Hushabye nursery would provide a much-needed service for such sick babies and give them the best chance at thriving.

Hushabye Nursery. The opioid epidemic destroys lives of many, but it should not include our most vulnerable: infants. These nurses know what they are doing and should be given the chance to help the littlest victims.

Hushabye nursery

Husaby Nursery

For Hashabye Nursery

Hushabye Nursery is a program that would use this facility for a service that is very much needed in our community.

I believe Hushabye Nursery would thrive at this sight!! It is an ideal location and does not require a lot of renovation to make this site work for these very needy babies and their moms! As we all know, opioid addiction has become a crisis situation for the state of AZ and for the rest of our country. Hushabye Nusery could help families stay together. Hushabye Nusery would also provide education for the moms that are addicted and give them the tools to work with to become opioid dependent free. With this education, they could learn how to care for their babies so that their baby would be safe in their care and have a real chance of staying out of the foster home system. Their babies would be taken care of by a devoted staff who are trained to take care of them. These innocent babies will have a chance to grow up with their mom and stay out of foster care. They deserve a chance!! Thank you for your consideration.

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

What a wonderful opportunity to help infants born to mothers addicted to drugs. 346 babies diagnosed with NAS since June 15th this year! These are the tiniest victims of the opioid epidemic! Help Hushabye Nursery get started to serve this population in need and decrease the burdens to neonatal nurseries in the Phoenix area.

Would be a terrific location for 'hushabye nursery' to serve the many affected infants born to mothers addicted to drugs

Please give it to Hushabye baby project. They badly need a place and this location would be perfect!

Hushabye Nursery

Hushabye Nursery!

I would like to see Hush-a-Bye Nursery located at this facility. As a Labor and Delivery nurse, I know first-hand the need for such a facility for our most vulnerable patients, newborns.

Hush a bye nursery

Hushabye Nursery for infants going through drug withdrawal.

Would love to See Hushabye nursery here

Hushabye Nursery could thrive at this site. They can better serve the 346 babies diagnosed with NAS since June 15th this year. Please seriously consider Hushabye Nursery and all they'll be able to do for these tiniest victims of the opioid epidemic in this facility.

Hushabye nursery

I strongly feel that allocating space for Hushabye Nursery should be a highest priority. The babies impacted by NAS are the tiniest victims of the current opioid crisis. They are currently being treated in NICU environments that are filled with bright lights, monitors beeping, high energy required in saving medically fragile lives, etc. which is the opposite environment that the nervous systems of NAS babies need. As a Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) with 29+ years experience, I have worked with babies in the NICU and currently see the longer term impacts of drug exposure in utero with my current "clientele" -- school-aged children. Many of the students on my caseload are in the over-stretched foster care system. The focus of Hushabye in treating the baby and the mother is so important in breaking this cycle and providing care and support services for the family unit. Please do not pass up this opportunity to make a big impact on the current opioid epidemic and be a leader in the forefront of proper treatment of babies affected by NAS and all who love them.

Hushabye Nursery Neonatal Abstinence Recovery Center

Please use it for the Hushabye nursery! We have an epidemic of NAS babies. Hushabye nursery will not only help the babies but help parents get services they need. This is a win-WIN for Families and Arizona. Let's do this!

Hushabye Nursery is a necessary facility. As a NICU nurse of 17 years I can't trek you how many babies I've watched suffer. Please help us help them.

I suggest Hushabye nursery receive serious consideration for the use of this property. Ms. Sundem and Ms. Woody are excellent, compassionate, and skilled practitioners who will be exceptional leaders for the infant born addicted to drugs.

Please consider Hushabye Nursery, a local non-profit determined to assist the littlest victims of the opioid crisis. They desperately need a facility and this would be a great fit. As you are certainly aware, 67 babies were born with suspected NAS in Arizona in the last 5 weeks!

Hushabye Nursery

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

<p>Hush a Bye nursery is a must have. I am a registered nurse and have been caring for drug addicted babies for over 2 years now and we need a better facility than a hospital. For the future of these babies, the future of our nation we must start providing the proper care for these babies immediately. Hush a Bye Nursery is ready to go we just need this facility.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery. Such an amazing cause to help and save innocent babies.</p>
<p>Hush A Bye Baby.</p>
<p>Hush A Bye Baby.</p>
<p>Working in the NICU for 35 years. It long overdue for a facility such as Hushabye to become a reality. A much needed environment for NAS infants to thrive.</p>
<p>I have been a NICU nurse for 19yrs. Newborn babies that have to immediately go through withdrawal after they are born are some of the most challenging babies to care for. The NICU environment is loud, bright, and there is always activity going on. Drug withdrawal babies need peace and quiet to help sooth their discomfort. They need their parent/caregivers to be there all the time to learn their personality and what consoles them. NICU's are not always able to accommodate that and do not always have the space for a care giver to be able to sleep there and be with their baby all the time. What Hushaby Nursery wants to create is an environment where that is possible And is ideal for these tiniest victims of drug abuse. An environment where they can have the peace and quiet they need while having their parents be their main care giver. The love and consistency that can be provided by having the same care givers present all the time will make the babies thrive and be able to go home quicker. It will also increase their success after going home as care givers will know exactly what the babies behavior is like and what they like best for soothing.</p>
<p>I believe, with all my heart, that the available space would be very well served providing a home for Hushabye Nursery. As the numbers grow of babies with NAS the demand will also grow. It is heartwrenching to know the anguish these babies must endure. I am presently volunteering and doing anything I can to assist Tara Sundem, co-founder, find an environment that can ease the suffering for these innocent babies and their care givers. I know Tara's passion and these baby's needs will transcend all obstacles. I hope you give Hushabye Nursery this opportunity.</p>
<p>Hushaby nursery is really needed here in Phoenix. These babies need a place that is quiet and has nurses that are trained for thier special needs and circumstances. I will be looking to volunteer and be helpful to those babies that are suffering from thier parents addictions. Please support hushaby nursery!!</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery Caring for drug withdrawal babies. Such a need in this valley and people willing and able to do a great job providing care for this special group of infants</p>
<p>Hushabye nursery</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>The space should be used for Hush-a-bye nursery to address the opioid epidemic and the suffering newborns who are born addicted. The space would be invaluable in serving the infants and their families to help them through their addiction recovery process. The state has a large need for such a space.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

Hushabye Nursery would provide much needed services for babies born with NAS. In a society that has become addicted to so much babies or being born addicted without a choice. Hushabye Nursery would provide an atmosphere for babies to start life and detox in a safe, non-stressful environment while also helping their moms understand what they are going through.

This facility looks ideal to facilitate care to babies born with NAS or drug exposure in the womb. It would also appear to have space to educate and support the families and their needs.

Hushabye Nursery

Hushabye nursery for NAS babies

Hush a bye nursery for NAS babies! Please.. there is a humongous need for this and they are great people with great resources that can make a difference!!! I have seen the effects of opioid addicted babies and how well these ladies care for them and how a place such as hush a bye nursery will make a difference. I am 100% behind them and their cause. Cara RN

Hushabye nursery is an immediate need in the valley for babies born with NAS. No newborn baby should suffer due to choices their mothers made.

Hushabye Nursery (Center for babies born addicted to drugs via their mother)

Hushabye nursery

Hushaby nursery would help save innocent lives and put them on the path to a better life benefiting all in our community

Hushabye nursery

Hushabye Nursery!!!

Hushabye nursery

Hushabye Nursery. Whit my two kids being born in the NICU, it is a tough environment. Alarms constantly sounding. Babies who are born addicted to drugs and alcohol need a quiet environment. With the help from Hushabye Nursery, this would be a great place for them. Please consider Hushabye Nursery!

I like the Nursery idea!

Hushabye Nursery.

I believe a large portion of this space should be used for Hushabye nursery. This nursery is for drug exposed infants (nas babies) and can help them transition from a nicu setting to a home setting where their parents and other caregivers would help them withdrawal in a loving, non clinical way. I am a nicu nurse. I am also a foster parent to drug exposed infants. These babies and their parents need a non judgemental place with low lights and no monitors exploding, a chance to go into an age appropriate space and have tummy time and appropriate therapies. Their parents and potential caregivers deserve to learn how to care for them and bond with them in their hardest times of life. Infant withdrawal is painful and these kids deserve to be cared for in a home like setting not sitting in a crib or swing waiting for their turn to be cared for.

Hush-a-bye nursery

Hushabye nursery. No question. As a NICU nurse that takes care of drug exposed infants, the babies and the nurses and the community NEEDS this.

Hushabye nursery. We are in a opioids crisis. These babies need this space.

It would be great to provide care to hushabye nursery babies.

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

A property for babies who are going through opioid withdrawal

I believe the short term and long term benefits of this site for Hushabye Nursery make it the best use of The Arizona State Hospital property. As an nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit, I have seen first hand the need for specialized care for babies born with Neonatal Absinence Syndrome and their families. The environment of a busy neonatal intensive care is not designed to best meet the needs of these babies. Their suffering is heartbreaking and Hushabye has the ability to alleviate suffering and help these babies and their families get a new start!

Please consider Hushabye Nursery.....there is such a need. I'm a NICU RN and care for some of these babies.

Neonatal abstinence recovery center. These babies need a quiet place to recover. Families need a place to feel safe in order to bond with their infant without being judged. They also can learn how to care for their baby. Substance abuse is an epidemic...these babies need a safe place to recover in the best possible environment!

Hushabye nursery

Hushabye nursery would be the best use!

Hushabye Nursery needs to become a reality asap as the opioids epidemic is seriously affecting census and adequate environmental care for many newborns ! Please make this a priority in health care needs for our Phoenix area population .

PLEASE CONTRACT WITH HUSHABYE NURSERY. AS AN ADDICTION PROFESSIONAL I CAN TELL YOU OUR NEED FOR A FACILITY SUCH AS THEIRS IS PARAMOUNT.

I believe that the hushabye nursery is a great need for the current state of healthcare needs for the babies born addicted to opiates. These babies and mothers as well as their families will be better served to have full involvement of the mothers which is not actually the norm at this time. The babies and mothers are separated for long periods of time and studies have shown that the more the mother is involved in caring for their baby then shorter time is needed to get the baby through the withdrawals and the family can be a better functioning unit.

The Hushabye Nursery is so desperately needed. I have the highest respect for Tara Sundem, NNP and Kelly Woody, NNP after working alongside them as an RN in several NICUs in the Valley over many years caring for infants with diverse medical needs, including many, many with NAS. They are striving to provide a healing environment for the infants with NAS that we are seeing more and more in the hospital environment. While hospitals provide good initial care, the Hushabye Nursery will be a quieter, more healing environment that can improve outcomes for these infants and their families. Hospitals are not able to include families in their babies' care the way this independent setting will do. The infants will have a better opportunity to have their developmental needs addressed in this setting and be discharged with a greater chance to grow up healthy.

Hushabye Nursery would be an incredible asset to the community at this location. Their services are critical to the tiny victims of the opioid epidemic. Please allow this program the chance to thrive and change the lives of these tiny babies.

This would be the perfect location for the hushabye nursery. The amount of drug addicted babies born every year just keeps rising and this would be the perfect place to start a facility that will help better treat them and giving them a loving and nurturing environment

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

<p>We are in great need to address the rising epidemic of NAS (neonatal abstinence syndrome) in AZ. The extreme benefits Hushabye nursery could provide our community as a whole would be great. It would also be a opportunity for AZ to set and deliver a model for care of NAS infants that would benefit state and federal programs. Please please help these babies and their families!!! Support Hushabye nursery!!!</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery would thrive in this locating.</p>
<p>Absolutely Hyshabye Nursery for passively dependent newborns dir to this opoid epidemic. These babies desperately need the appropriate setting for recovery and the appropriate nurturing as they enter and adapt to this work already compromised</p>
<p>A location for the Hushabye Nursery! My family would have benefitted greatly from a service and facility like this. I have worked to raise community funds for them, and they need this place and its location!</p>
<p>We absolutely need this place for babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. We need a place for families to learn to care for their babies in a non-judge mental environment that Hush a Bye nursery can provide. A NICU environment is a busy environment and costs an extreme amount of money per day. These babies need quiet, private rooms to recover from the symptoms of NAS. The opioid epidemic is on the rise & this will only benefit the infants in a positive manner!</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>This property would be amazing for a NAS facility, specifically Hushabye Nursery. It is centrally locates and can service many in the surrounding area. The opioid epidemic is rampant and tiny-helpless infants need a specialized facility for recover. This would serve them perfectly as a start.</p>
<p>Hushabye Baby Nursery</p>
<p>As a neonatal nurse who often takes care of newborns going through opiate withdrawals, I believe that Hushabye Nursery should be allowed this facility to do the very difficult and very much needed work of taking care of the most innocent victims of the opioid crisis.</p>
<p>For Hushabye nursery and the NAS babies!!!</p>
<p>The best use for the Arizona State Hospital property would absolutely be the Hushabye Nursery. There is a great need for a place for these drug withdrawing infants to be taken care of outside of the icu setting. I believe they will thrive and get the attention the need and deserve at the Hushabye Nursery.</p>
<p>This property is best used for work done with NAS. The numbers of infants diagnosed in the last 6 mos is heartbreaking. They need a specialized facility</p>
<p>Hushabye nursery</p>
<p>This state needs a facility for Newborn withdrawal. This has become a huge problem not only in our state but nationwide. Please help these babies get the care they need!! Hushaby nusery is so dear to me. I have work closely with the great ladies that are building this program and see their dedication and kindness to these newborns. They are so deserving.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery!</p>
<p>Please consider space for Hush-a-Bye Nursery. Their mission is really critical for baby's born addicted.</p>

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

<p>Hushabye Nursery will be the best for this location. This nursery helps babies born with NAS, which has become an epidemic. Let's help these babies have a nursery that fits their needs.</p>
<p>This would be an excellent site for the hushaby nursery. I am a NNP in Northern Arizona and have a first hand experience with NAS patients. A facility like he Hushaby nursery would be extremely beneficial for these patients and their families. The length of stay is greatly reduced when you have parent involvement, single rooms, and experienced staff. Please consider them.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery would greatly benefit from this property, not only is this something essential for the current opioid epidemic but could potentially have positive long term effects for the babies born with Neonatal abstinence syndrome.</p>
<p>As a NICU nurse, I can attest to the growing opioid epidemic in the state of Arizona. Not a day goes by in my neonatal unit where we don't have a drug addicted baby in house and receiving medication to wean off their addiction. Having a facility like hushabye nursery is the perfect opportunity for these infants to receive the best care they deserve</p>
<p>Hushabye nursery</p>
<p>NAS/ Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>Hushabye nursery for infants born with opioid addiction. This is an epidemic that deserves our time and attention. Please consider. Thank you.</p>
<p>With the current opiate crisis the need is 100% for Hushababy Nursery. These babies need our support and hopefully the parents can get the assistance and education to live a healthy moving forward.</p>
<p>This property I an greatly needed to help with drug addicted infants. I am a Neonatal Nurse and the environment that is utilized for these infants is not appropriate for their healing and weaning off of the drugs that they have been exposed to. They need a very special and specific environment in order for them to go home sooner and have better out comes. This space would be perfect for them. Please consider using this for the tiniest of victims!</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery</p>
<p>Hush-a-bye nursery is needed in this state. Theboipiod epidemic is out of control and these poor babies need help.</p>
<p>Hushabye Nursery- recovery center for babies withdrawing from the substances their mother's were taking while pregnant. The environment that these babies are cared in the NICU is inappropriate. These babies need a dark, quiet environment with one to one caregivers. Caregivers that are nonjudgmental and willing to work with the birth moms. These mamas love their babies. They need to be educated prenatally, at Hushabye and then after discharge. Babies do best with their moms, it is proven over and over. Babies withdraw easier with their moms. Their moms have to feel comfortable and welcomed. The staff needs to be willing and patient with both the birth mom/family as well as the NAS baby. Hushabye Nursery will provide wrap around services to the tiniest victims of the opioid epidemic. These babies and their families deserve a different model of care. That is Hushabye Nursery...recover center that specializes in babies with NAS and their families/caregivers.</p>

Online Comments about P3

November 13-20, 2017

The 93 acres of Trust Land should be used to create a Psychiatric Center of Excellence for our Seriously Mentally Ill!!! It is so unfair, the lack of respect and decency these SMI patients are forced to endure. They deserve to be treated with compassion and understanding, not pushed aside like they don't matter. Our loved ones that are living this life as a SMI, often times do not understand their illness. They need a safe controlled environment where they can live the Best possible life they can! They deserve NO less!!! Please use these 93 acres of Trust Land to help them realize their best lives, by building this Psychiatric Center of Excellence!!! Thank you for your time on this matter! Kim Hawley

~~MIHS Comments regarding ASH November 2017~~ As a major provider of behavioral health services in Maricopa County and the only one conducting inpatient Court Ordered Evaluations, Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) is very concerned with the existing shortage of Medicaid funded inpatient behavioral health beds for adults. We are also very interested in finding ways to relieve the current crisis of psychiatric boarding in local hospital emergency departments and jail overcrowding. In the Spring of 2016, when ADHS first announced plans to create a public-private partnership to utilize available property and/or buildings located on the Arizona State Hospital (ASH) campus to enhance and improve the behavioral health services available to the community, we at MIHS believed we would be an ideal partner in such an endeavor. We attended the first public meeting on the topic and took advantage of the ASH campus tour that was provided in July of 2016. We submitted a detailed response to the RFI in late July 2016 outlining how we would use the 80 beds on the Civil Campus and the 23 beds in the Community Reintegration Unit. Given that these two buildings literally back up to our Maricopa Medical Center campus, it would be quite easy for MIHS to effectively and efficiently operate inpatient units there. In the nearly 16 months since we submitted our response to the RFI, a number of factors have changed which make the partnership between ASH and MIHS even more desirable. First and foremost involves the new federal regulation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which became effective July 5, 2016, limiting federal funding for services to persons in Institute of Mental Disease (IMD) who are aged 21-64. Federal Rule 42 C.F.R. 438.6(e) prohibits the use of federal Medicaid funding to Managed Care Organizations if these members are in IMDs for more than 15 days during a calendar month. This new regulation, which is being enforced in Arizona beginning October 1, 2017, is placing significant new restrictions on bed availability for adults ages 21-64. Given our single-group licensing structure with the Office of Medical Facilities Licensing at ADHS, the psychiatric beds operated by MIHS are considered part of the general hospital and are therefore not IMD beds. MIHS would be uniquely positioned to open new acute and subacute beds on the ASH campus that would not be subjected to the new limitation imposed by CMS allowing adult Medicaid recipients only 15 days of treatment per calendar month in an IMD facility. As the largest non-IMD behavioral health inpatient provider in the state, MIHS sees the utilization of these 123 beds as an immediate step the state can take to address the need for Medicaid inpatient behavioral health services. This change will fill an important gap by providing people with mental health care when they need it most. Another significant development in the past year which makes MIHS an even more desirable partner for ASH is the addition of a mental health courtroom on our Maricopa Medical Center Campus. Previously all patients undergoing court ordered evaluations on our Roosevelt Street Campus had to be transported to court hearings in our Desert Vista facility in Mesa. Beginning in July of 2017, we have been able to conduct hearings at our Behavioral Health Annex facility as well. In January of 2017, MIHS converted an adult inpatient unit at our Desert Vista Behavioral Health Facility in Mesa into a unit that serves adolescents ages 13-17. This means that we would have no interest in opening additional adolescent beds on the ASH property as originally envisioned, which maximizes the beds for Adult Medicaid recipients. Finally, in August of 2017, we opened a new 22 bed med/psych unit on the third floor of our Maricopa Medical Center. This brought our combined total of inpatient psychiatric beds for adults (Desert Vista and Main Campus) to 227 and 14 beds for adolescents at Desert Vista. Having these additional acute inpatient beds means that we would be more comfortable increasing the number of

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I believe the hospital can be best used as a psychiatric short/long term facility. My [REDACTED] has mental health problems and I was not properly helped by the 24 hour facilities we have, he checked himself out and [REDACTED] year old [REDACTED] [REDACTED] There are way too many tragic events as mine where an adult is not provided the proper mental health assistance and their story ends in tragedy, a life taken and usually it is someone they know and love. My [REDACTED] now sits in jail left untreated with the rest of the jail population, he will sit there for at least another 2 years, untreated and getting worse. Please consider my story and the numerous others like mine when you make your decision regarding the property. The power to heal and save lives is in your hands. Thank you, [REDACTED]

Permanent housing for SMI patients in the form of apartments or trailer type park with supervision of course.

Ultimately, we need more beds and long term mental health care. This would be the best use.

long term beds for serious mental illness

I am the [REDACTED] year old [REDACTED] who lives with [REDACTED] and has been adjudicated SMI. He was diagnosed at age [REDACTED]. I am also a citizen who is concerned about the safety and humane treatment that individuals in our seriously mentally ill population deserve, as well as the safety and peace that is desired in our homes and communities. For 14 years my husband & I have worked with the mental health care system in this state. On numerous occasions we have utilized the services of the Mesa Police Department, local emergency rooms, the urgent psychiatric care facility, involuntary care through court ordered treatment, in-patient psychiatric hospitals, and assisted outpatient treatment through [REDACTED] and the treatment team established there. It took 10 years for my [REDACTED] to be stabilized to the point where we can live with him in peace. He is unable to work due to the intrusive thought patterns that are part of this illness, but he is helpful at home and has a daily routine that suits him. He follows the treatment regimen prescribed, but we are aware that changes can occur at any time that would upset the level of stability he has attained. We realize he may someday need more intense care. Or when we are gone, he may need supportive, residential care. So for this period of peace, we are most grateful, even as we encourage him through some days of despair and thoughts of hopelessness. But, we are aware that many individuals never reach the point where they understand enough about their illness to be compliant with a treatment plan. In light of the mass violence across our nation that has been attributed to untreated mental illness, I would beg of you to use this opportunity to provide excellent, long-term care facilities for our state's most vulnerable seriously mentally ill. Prison guards passing pills and trying to keep the peace is not humane care. Living on the streets is not acceptable. Families fearful of moving freely about their own home, in constant stress, should move us to bring what relief we can. I pray that your eyes would be open to see and your ears would hear our plea for help. [REDACTED]

The lack of progressive and compassionate treatment in the AZ State Hospital is well-known in our communities. I would only support a public/private partnership if the private part of the equation was NOT about profit. No one should make money off the backs of the mentally ill. The state hospital should only be used for those who are SMI. We are incarcerating too many people who are bipolar, make a mistake and cannot get treatment in prison.

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I think the 93 acres of trust land should be used to create a "Psychiatric Center of Excellence". Our community really needs additional resources for our Seriously Mentally Ill. I know of several personal friends going through difficulties finding residential places for they're family members with SMI.

Expand Az State Hospital and add beds for the SMI community.

Arizona definitely needs long term care facilities for our SMI individuals who are currently just blowing in the wind. They don't stay put in a community residential facility for various reasons ranging from paranoia, voices telling them to leave, being kicked out for substance abuse, their lack of insight to their illness, etc. Our dual diagnosed smi loved ones deserve to have a "safe" place where they can reside (their safety as well as the general public). Creating a Psychiatric Center of Excellence on the 93 acres of trust land surrounding the Arizona State Hospital is definitely something that would benefit the more seriously mentally ill patients in Arizona. We would actually be able to provide adequate treatment in a suitable restricted environment which we can't do now....we rely on our jails and prisons to provide treatment and our smi patients deserve better than that. Please make good use of the 93 acres at the Arizona State Hospital site and create a Psychiatric Center of Excellence!! Thank You! I'd be happy to go into further details on how our current mental health system is failing.

I am an attorney, have had previous experience representing clients at ASH and have a masters degree in Psychology. AZ has one of the worst mental health care regimes in the country. Public-private partnerships can be good if done right. They are not good if profit for the private partner is prioritized over the benefit to the client or the good to the society by rehabilitation. So any such partnership has to have strict parameters and be focused on the public good not the private good. We need serious drug treatment services that are free and can be long term. Drug addiction is a disease not a crime and we must stop using criminal justice means to deal with it. Thank you.

Take care of people who are too ill to live independently.

Arizona is woefully lacking in facilities that treat those persons who suffer from mental health and substance abuse disorders. If we could address these issues at the outset, we could start to make inroads to reducing our prison population. As DHS seeks to leverage taxpayer investment through public private partnership opportunities, I'm urging the Department to prioritize care for SMI individuals who also struggle substance abuse issues. More 24-hour facilities are needed, and it's true that ASH has the space. But integrated facilities built for longer-term care are more appropriate for these individuals. Arizona is among the states with the fewest beds for co-occurring individuals. The need is dire, and the time is now to create a system of appropriate care, not just additional institutionalization that results in high-cost criminal justice "solutions."

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As DHS seeks to leverage taxpayer investment through public private partnership opportunities, I'm urging the Department to prioritize care for SMI individuals, especially those who also struggle substance abuse issues. Arizona desperately needs more long term hospital beds. Right now, SMI patients are hospitalized until they are barely stable enough not to hurt anyone then released within a couple days only to decompensate again. There is no where longer term to send them except ASH and it is nearly impossible to get a patient into ASH. In addition, there is a serious lack of proper treatment for SMI patients who also have addiction issues. Integrated facilities built for longer-term care are more appropriate for these individuals. Arizona is among the states with the fewest beds for co-occurring individuals. The need is dire, and the time is now to create a system of appropriate care, not just additional institutionalization that results in high-cost criminal justice "solutions."

The SMI patients have needs beyond acute care settings presently used. They are not adequately cared for related to present limits on inpatient days available. Consequently, they have repeated hospitalizations, a revolving door, never getting the long term care to stabilize and rehab them. We must do better!

I am the mother of a young [REDACTED] living with [REDACTED], adjudicated SMI. We need long-term care beds/facilities & engaging programs for those individuals who never progress to a point where they can manage to maintain stability on their own.

As DHS seeks to leverage taxpayer investment through public-private partnership opportunities, I'm urging the Department to prioritize care for SMI individuals who also struggle substance abuse issues. More 24-hour facilities are needed, and it's true that ASH has the space. But integrated facilities built for longer-term care are more appropriate for these individuals. Arizona is among the states with the fewest beds for co-occurring individuals. The need is dire, and the time is now to create a system of appropriate care, not just additional institutionalization that results in high-cost criminal justice "solutions." Marilyn Rodriguez, on behalf of the Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice

I think this property should be used to make the world a better place.

I think that the 93 acres of trust land should totally be used to create a "Psychiatric Center of Excellence". There are too many mentally ill people who have no place to go especially after a they are stabilized they will just end up on the streets again, they need a long term place to stay. This land is perfect for this. Let's help the mentally ill, it is so important. If they are put back on the streets not only will they not improve or stay stable, but possibly injure themselves or another person.

I urge you to make use of this land to serve the most vulnerable mentally ill among us. This group of people often fall through the cracks because of a lack of safe, reliable services. Often their families don't have the resources to help them and they become homeless or incarcerated. Please do the right thing to help them. Thank you

The "profitability" of this facility cannot be allowed to overshadow the need for the most effective and long term care for seriously mentally ill patients. Perhaps profitability can be worked into helping these patients learn to work in a closely supervised environment in this hospital. Their stays should not be shortened due to profitability.

I think that the State Hospital needs to continue running. It is vital for our community and the most severely ill psychiatrically, without it, there could be harm that come to those individuals and perhaps the community

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There needs to be an expansion of the number of long term secure psychiatric beds that the state provides or sees are made available, to make possible quality treatment for persons with serious behavioral health needs. We have a severe shortage of psychiatric beds in our state. The need for a larger number of longer term secure treatment beds is a problem our state has faced for decades. We should also consider that some of these beds be dedicated to forensic diversion. Our county prosecutors tell us that until our state creates secure psychiatric beds where our courts can trust that people with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders will have the opportunity to receive adequate treatment, our criminal justice system will continue with its need to use incarceration, when these individuals are charged with breaking our criminal codes. Because these types of individuals break our laws due to their illness and treatment can not be adequately secured in jail or prison, these individuals will continually recycle through our criminal justice system, forcing us to waste precious resources and making all of our communities less safe. Let's do the right thing and create an increased number of secure longer term treatment beds which can be utilized by all of our counties statewide. Getting into ASH is way too hard for most individuals who need a longer term treatment setting. We must also remove the caps on the numbers set by Arnold vs Sarn. This is a law suit that has far outlived it's usefulness at this point in time. Build secure long term treatment beds where serious and co-occurring mental illnesses can be treated and give our state a reason to stop the building of an increasing number of jail and prison beds. With a greater availability of desperately needed long term secure behavioral health treatment beds, our loved ones who suffer the most will have the greatest opportunity to live full and productive lives. Access to treatment shouldn't be so difficult to obtain..The time for change is now. Thank you Mary Lou Brncik, Director David's Hope - Arizona Mental Health Criminal Justice Coalition.

The best use of the property would be to continue addressing mental health in particular individuals and families afflicted with substance use disorder. A non-institutional affiliate family care center that all (PCH, MIHS, Banner) could and would refer to. Currently there is need in a opioid-use disorder population, that should be at the top of priorities considered.

If expanding the state provided psychiatric care through the ASH, consideration should be given towards talent acquisition strategies to support such initiatives. The US nursing shortage is growing. Can we engage in recruiting nurses from international settings? This may boost the local commerce by bringing their family to the workforce and consumer base. Contact O'Grady Peyton International, they did this with Virginia and Wyoming successfully.

According to treatment advocacy center, Arizona ranks 48th in the nation for the amount of public psychiatric beds needed per capital. People who have severe and persistent mental illness are falling through the cracks, jails have become the new "hospitals" for this population. Arizona should make this vulnerable group of people a priority and provide beds and transitional housing appropriate to the need. ASH should expand their current capacity and stop using this hospital for DOC prisoners/patients.

test 100

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Since the original purpose of this property hasn't been met. People living with mental illness who need long term services (specifically teenagers) are not receiving the services they need. It has been stated that teens have been referred to services out of state but since cost for this is too high they haven't been able to access care. There is not anything they can do except be in crisis for long periods of time causing incarceration and other non-preferred methods of housing and care. So what happens is these individuals who do not receive any care/treatment until they reach the age of 18 and become designated SMI they remain in communities where they go through crisis after crisis. I believe the use of this part of the hospital should revert to what was the original intention.
The original purpose I believe was to provide a place for teenagers to receive long term inpatient treatment. I still believe that is the most important use for this facility.
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Health System Alliance of Arizona

November 20, 2017

Director Cara Christ
Arizona Department of Health Systems
150 N. 18th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Director Christ:

The purpose of this letter is to offer input on the request for public comment on the highest and best use of the Arizona State Hospital Property related to requests for proposal for a Public Private Partnership (P3).

The Health System Alliance of Arizona represents the interests of large, integrated hospital systems in Arizona. Our membership, which includes Banner Health, Dignity Health, HonorHealth and Tenet Healthcare Arizona (Abrazo Community Health Network and Carondelet Health Network) are some of the largest healthcare providers in the State of Arizona. We have a vested interest in the establishment of a robust healthcare delivery system in Arizona, with a network of providers adequate to meet the population's needs.

To that end, we recognize the urgent need to establish more inpatient capacity for court-ordered evaluation and treatment in Maricopa County, particularly for patients with complex medical needs. At the present time, there is only one facility in the County that accepts these patients-Desert Vista Behavioral Health Center, in Mesa, Arizona. For this reason, when Desert Vista has no capacity for additional patients, patients awaiting court-ordered evaluation “back up” into the system, clogging screening facilities, and eventually our emergency departments.

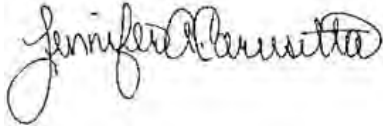
Emergency department boarding of behavioral health patients has been a continual crisis for our facilities in Maricopa County, presenting our member systems with ongoing challenges in both patient care and legal liability. When Desert Vista and the screening facilities are full, our practitioners are unable to release patients who are suspected to be a danger to themselves or others while they wait for capacity to open in the system in accordance with the due process timelines established in statute. This problem is particularly acute for patients with complex medical conditions. Desert Vista is simply unable to care for these patients. For this reason, they will often remain in hospitals unnecessarily for extended periods of time, without access to the due process and critical behavioral health care they need and deserve.

It is for these reasons that we would strongly urge you and your Department staff to consider P3 opportunities that will facilitate the expansion of inpatient capacity for court-ordered evaluation and treatment on the Arizona State Hospital property, including inpatient court-ordered evaluation and treatment capacity for medically complex patients.

We believe this would be a strong step to addressing the capacity challenges we are facing in the court-ordered evaluation process in Maricopa County, and to providing some of our most vulnerable and needy patients with access to the critical behavioral healthcare services they are entitled to.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration and am happy to answer any questions or provide additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer A. Carusetta". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Jennifer A. Carusetta
Executive Director
Health System Alliance of Arizona