

To Whom It May Concern

November 09, 2010

The conditional use permit for the basement of 717 Meade will allow three to four young men with intellectual disabilities to live in their community as independently as possible. This site is an ideal location for a community-based life college program; within walking distance are shopping, medical services, restaurants, and banking. Being on the bus route will enable these young people access to the community beyond a walking radius, opening a world in which they can actively participate. Both the close proximity to community services and a bus route are crucial factors to this program because the students cannot drive.

Depending on the supervisory needs of the young men who live there, a staff may live in the 4th apartment and provide evening and night supervision. If a staff member does not live-in, the residential complex will be staffed in shifts.

These young men will be part of a life college program which intensively teaches independent living skills, yet gives the participants a feeling of going to college. Cooking, menu planning, shopping, cleaning, time management, money management, transportation skills, pre-employment competencies, career exploration, job skills, and social skills will be included in the curriculum. During the day formal and informal classes will be held off campus, most likely at one of the colleges in Rapid City. During the late afternoons, evenings and weekends, students will be participating in intensive "home" skill activities. The students' schedules coincide well with the existing business traffic on the property, which lessens late afternoon and is nonexistent on weekends, when the students spend most of their time in the building.

Providing this level of support for postsecondary young people is new to this community outside of the Black Hills Workshop. Giving parents and consumers another option will enhance our community as well as the lives of the young people involved.

Any questions about the program can be directed to:

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Program Developer
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Thank you for your consideration.

Janice and Roger Knutsen
Bellwether Limited Partnership

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Rapid City Council
Planning and Development