

May 3, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 14, 2022 Bethany Smith of the National Youth Advocate Program shared at our HOPE Network Roundtable meeting regarding the Peoria Front Door Diversion Program. I am aware that on May 5th there is a Special Use Permit hearing that will determine whether a home can be utilized for this program. As a provider who has provided in-home supportive counseling to single guardians for over sixteen years, I wholeheartedly support a FDDP home in Peoria, to provide safe housing for adults transitioning from a mental health hospital discharge back into the community. Case management, ongoing connection to mental health services, support towards employment and social skills: these are critical components for adults with mental health diagnoses who seek to successfully live independently.

Sincerely,
Toby Gardner, B.S.
Counselor – Multi-Services to Single Parents Program
FamilyCore
309.676.2400 ext. 273

From: Barb Ekstrum <bekst@outlook.com>

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 3:21 PM

To: Bethany Smith <BESmith@nyap.org>

Subject: Re: [Hope-Network-Roundtable] HOPE Network Roundtable Meeting Sign-in Sheet 4-14-22

WARNING: This email originated from outside of NYAP. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender AND know the content is safe. Contact the Help Desk with any questions.

Hi Bethany,

Thanks for giving us information about the Front Door Diversion Program! It is evident that we, as a community, need something/somewhere to house individuals who are experiencing mental health issues. Many of those who are homeless, or soon to be so, would benefit from this program!

I wish you and NYAP the best in meeting the needs of those in crisis.

Sincerely,

Barb Ekstrum

St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Jude Conference