

Council schedules hearing on rehabilitation center

By LINDA BENDIXEN

Register Staff Writer

The Ankeny City Council Monday set a public hearing for a \$6.5 million revenue bond proposal to build a head injury rehabilitation center.

The proposed center, On With Life Inc., would be built by an affiliate of the Iowa Head Injury Association south of the city along Iowa Highway 160. The hearing will be Jan. 16 at 5 p.m.

Buyers of the bonds would be paid off with revenues generated by the On With Life center. The city is under no financial obligation but is acting on behalf of the rehabilitation center in issuing the tax-exempt bonds.

Plans call for a central 40-bed facility and a 12-bed cottage to house head-injury patients for rehabilitation. Initially, permanent care would not be provided.

More than 10,000 Iowans suffer head injuries each year, said Marvin Tooman, a member of the On With Life board of directors. At least 10 percent are severe, he said, causing permanent physical or mental damage.

"There's a desperate need for this," Tooman said.

Tooman said the non-profit rehabilitation center would be unique in Iowa and rare in the United States.

One of its advantages would be competitive fees that may attract out-of-state patients.

The center also could become a research facility, he said, to develop more effective and efficient rehabilitation programs.

"I'd like to think that we'll be on the cutting edge," Tooman said. "We think of it as a state-of-the-art facility."

Tooman said the project, when operating at capacity, would employ more than 100 people at salaries averaging about \$20,000. The center could contribute \$2 million annually to the area economy, he said.

Construction could begin as early as next fall and could be completed within a year, Tooman said, but more likely ground would be broken in the spring of 1990.

In other business, council members unanimously approved a public hearing and bid-letting for construction of the second phase of improvements to the Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant.

The second phase includes construction of oxidation towers and pumping and ultraviolet disinfection facilities, which will bring the plant to full capacity.

D. M. Register

Wednesday, December 21, 1988

ANKENY

Press Citizen

SHOP
NE

North
19,

Valle
22,80

Shopper-News Network
Wednesday, December 28, 1988

Head Injury Center Planned Here

By Marcia Ryan
Staff Writer

The City of Ankeny has been asked to participate in the issuance of \$6.5 million in Health Care Facility Revenue Bonds for the development of a head injury rehabilitation facility south of Highway 160 and east of the Soil Conservation Society building.

If the City Council approves the sale, following a January 16th public hearing, and other planning and development continues on the projected schedule, the facility could be in operation by late 1990 or early 1991.

The City of Ankeny would bear no liability for the payment on the bonds. It would serve as a conduit for the monies, essentially lending its name and reputation to the bond issue.

Nor would the funds

count against Ankeny's bonding capacity.

Representatives of On With Life, Inc., developers of the non-profit project, did not know as of last week whether their project would be taxable for property tax purposes but they pointed out to the Council that, when fully operational, it would add 104 skilled fulltime employees with a \$2 million/year payroll to the local economy.

About 10,000 Iowans per year are victims of head injuries. 5000 are considered mild with only some residual damage which may need treatment. 4000 are considered moderate, people who can still function well though needing some vocational and behavioral treatment.

1000 of the cases each year fall into the category of severe or

profound injuries and need rehabilitation programs after and beyond the realm of what hospitals provide.

Marvin L. Tooman of the On With Life board of directors advised the Council that the closest such facilities for Iowa residents are currently in Colorado, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In its initial development, the project would provide a 40-bed facility and a 12-bed cottage primarily as a transitional location for those who, with rehabilitation, could return to mainstream living.

Future planning may include the development of additional cottages for those who cannot return to independent living.

Tooman pointed out that "there is a des-

perate need for such a regional facility," speaking to the social and economic impact on families separated by the distance of out-of-state rehabilitation facilities.

On With Life, Inc., was formed in association with the Iowa Head Injury Association and would operate as a non-profit facility, an advantage Tooman said would allow competitive fees that could attract out-of-state clients.

He added that the hope for the facility is that it direct efforts toward research, toward developing a state of the art program.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business at their Dec. 19th meeting, the City Council set Tuesday, Jan. 3rd, for their first regular January, 1989, meeting.

NEIGHBORS

Wednesday, January 18, 1989

Council OKs bond plan in Ankeny

By SARAH BARNES

Register Staff Writer

Construction on a head-injury rehabilitation center could begin this summer pending a \$6.5 million bond application, which was approved by the Ankeny City Council Monday.

On With Life Inc., a private, non-profit company, will apply for revenue bonds to pay for the facility, to be located directly south of Des Moines Area Community College. Although the city of Ankeny will not bear any cost of the facility, the city's name will be on the bond application and therefore City Council approval was required.

Marvin L. Tooman, a member of the On With Life board of directors, said the 34-bed facility will serve victims of head injuries. He said it is the first of its kind in Iowa and is designed to serve all of central Iowa.

"Iowa dollars have been leaving the state," Tooman said of patients who have had to go to neighboring states for head trauma rehabilitation. The center is expected to employ 72 people, whose average salary will be \$21,000 a year.

In other business, council members approved annexing property located at 8960 N. W. 16th St. Property owners Daniel and Suzanne Robinson said they wanted to become part of Ankeny because they were having difficulty with their well water supply, according to the minutes of the Ankeny Plan and Zoning Commission.

Their property is located west of Southwest Irvinedale Drive and east of Ankeny Golf and Country Club.

In further business, the City Council approved:

- The appointments of Charles Wilson and Scott Carrigan to the Ankeny Volunteer Fire Department.
- A \$21,759 payment to Herberger Construction Co. for the Saylor Creek pumping station.
- A \$1,605 payment to M.H.F./P.D.S. for the Metro North 1 paving project.
- A commercial liquor license renewal for Jade Garden Restaurant and Lounge, 711 S. Ankeny Blvd.
- A commercial liquor license for Miller's High Lite, 118 S.W. State St.
- A commercial liquor license renewal for Distillery Lounge Inc., 1509 S. Ankeny Blvd.

Head Injury Patient Brings People Forward

By Brenda Perry
Staff Writer

Gina Butcher probably won't remember the evening she painted the walls of the new house her parents built just northeast of Ankeny.

"Gina never wanted to grow up," said Karen Kelly, Butcher's mother. "She never wanted to start dating because she said it meant she was getting older."

For now, Butcher won't be growing up, she'll just be growing older.

In January, Butcher and a school friend of her's, Dena Den Adel, were in a car accident. Although Butcher survived the accident, she still remains in a coma. Den Adel didn't survive the accident.

To draw attention to Butcher's condition,

Becky Collins of 309 S.W. Pleasant is sponsoring a Rock-A-Thon to raise money. The money will be donated to a head injury facility scheduled to be built on the southwest side of Ankeny, by Des Moines Area Community College this fall.

"I'm having the Rock-a-thon to earn my gold award, the highest award a girl scout can achieve," said Collins. "And also people don't realize how much of a need there is for a head injury facility."

The Rock-A-Thon is scheduled from 7 p.m. to midnight at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church on Aug. 4. To help, call Collins at 964-1930.

The reason Kelly requested the money raised from the Rock-A-Thon, go to "On With Life," the non-profit organization responsible

for bringing the medical facility to Ankeny, is because she doesn't want other families to have the added burden of looking outside the state for finding help for their relatives.

Kelly visits her daughter weekly in a Kansas City facility.

"Becky had come out and visited with us a couple of months ago," said Kelly. "We weren't sure what to do, we've always been thankful for what we have and so we decided to donate the money in Gina's name to this facility."

Doris Konkol of Des Moines, president of "On With Life" said the head injury facility will cost \$6.25 million. It will contain a 22-bed treatment facility and another 12-bed transitional facility. On July 13 the five-member board received their certificate of

need, giving them permission to move ahead with fundraising.

Members of the

board include Marvin Tooman, John Smith, Paul Jorgensen and Eli

Continued on Page 5



Rock-A-Thon

Ankeny Girl Scout, Becky Collins, is sponsoring a Rock-A-Thon to draw attention to Gina Butcher, an Ankeny senior who remains in a coma after a January car accident. The money raised will go toward a proposed head injury rehabilitation facility.

Ankeny Press Citizen - Wednesday, July 19, 1989 - Page 5

NEWS

Head Injury Rehab Center Promised

Continued from Page 1

Wirtz.

Konkol said members of On With Life joined because they are either in the health care business or have relatives with head injuries.

"When doctors say head injury patients are in good condition it means they are good for the state they are in," said Konkel, who's son suffered a head injury and is in a rehabilitation facility in Colorado.

The most common cause of a head injury is a motor vehicle accident and the most likely candidate for a head injury is a male between the ages of 15-24, she said. Between 1 to 1.8 million

people a year sustain a head injury.

Although physically many patients look fine, their physical, emotional and cognitive abilities are severely affected.

Some of the symptoms of a head injury victim include problems with walking, seeing, hearing and tasting, loss of feeling and sensation. Loss of bowel and bladder control, difficulty speaking clearly and recurring epileptic seizures.

Their emotional balance is thrown off making patients extremely irritable, anxious or depressed. Their cognitive skills decrease making it difficult for them to handle basic academics, to say what they mean, manage time and they lose con-

centration and memory.

Konkol says the average length of stay in a rehabilitation facility is 7 to 9 months but can be much shorter or much longer depending on the patient.

For-profit rehabilitation centers cost between \$600 and \$850 a day. Konkol says since their's is non-profit, costs should be much lower -- \$350 a day.

Ankeny was chosen for the facility's site because of its location and because it is a growing community, said Konkol. Because of medical advances, people who normally would have died from their head injuries are saved. But because of the nature of their injury require different treatment than what is

typically offered in a physical rehabilitation center.

Although patients may dramatically improve from their injury, none of them actually recover and return to a life that they had before their injury, said Konkol.

"We realized it took a different kind of treatment," said Konkol. "Head injury patients are not retarded and they are not mentally ill. They get stuck in slots. And there aren't enough adequate treatment facilities to help them with their specific learning disabilities. That's why "On With Life" had community re-entry as its focus."

N**FRANK BOWERS, Neighbors editor, 284-8039**

A weekly section of news and features from Ankeny, surrounding communities and the north side of Des Moines.

Wednesday, August 2, 1989

Head injury clinic gets state's OK

By **JENNIFER KATLEMAN**
Register Staff Writer

Iowa's first head injury clinic has appointed its director and received state approval to begin construction.

Marvin Tooman has been named director and chief executive officer of On With Life Inc., a 34-bed clinic in Ankeny dedicated to treating head and spinal injuries. Construction will begin in six weeks, he said.

"There's really need for returning people with head injuries to their own environment," said Tooman, who has been laying the groundwork for the clinic since 1985. "That's the best for them in terms of quality of life and the most cost-effective."

Plans Approved

The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' Health Facilities Division approved plans for the \$6.5 million clinic July 13. The facility will be located southeast of Des Moines Area Community College on Northeast Ankeny Road.

Tooman will leave his position as resource manager for the Iowa Department of Education's division of vocational rehabilitation to join On With Life. He has worked for the department for 10 years.

The not-for-profit clinic will have a 22-bed main building and a 12-bed transitional cottage, a group home that will prepare brain-injured patients to live on their own, Tooman said. Most patients will spend five to nine months in the cottage, he said.

A 72-member staff, including physical therapists, neuropsychologists and part-time physicians, will care for the patients.

With a clinic in Iowa, patients no longer will have to leave the state for long-term treatment, Tooman said.

Insurance Question

Sheri Vohs, a spokeswoman for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, the state's largest health insurance carrier, said some policies will cover daily therapy for head injury victims. Care for patients living in group homes is not covered under current guidelines, she said.

Members of the Iowa Head Injury Association formed On With Life in 1987. Tooman, like other association members who have relatives with head injuries, became interested when his wife's cousin suffered severe head injuries in a car accident.

His interest in caring for head injury victims deepened when he co-edited a book on the subject for the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research, an arm of the U.S. Department of Education.

Board members now are trying to raise \$1 million in corporate and individual donations. So far, about \$250,000 has been pledged.

N**FRANK BOWERS, Neighbors editor, 284-8039**

A weekly section of news and features from Ankeny, surrounding communities and the north side of Des Moines.

Wednesday, August 9, 1989

Ankeny to let firm seek grant for new clinic

By SARAH BARNES

Register Staff Writer

The Ankeny City Council Monday approved a request from a firm planning to build a new head-injury clinic to apply for a \$350,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Companies seeking such grants from the state must receive approval from the city first, said City Manager Carl Metzger. On With Life, a 34-bed facility for people with head injuries, will be located in Ankeny on Northeast Ankeny Road, just southeast of Des Moines Area Community College.

The clinic's proposal to the state includes a commitment from the city to install utilities and traffic signals at an estimated cost of \$90,000.

According to Marvin Tooman, the clinic's director, the company could begin building on the site this fall, with completion in the fall of 1990. The \$6.5 million clinic received a certificate of need license from the state last month.

In other business, the City Council voted to spend \$89,978 on a new Fire Department rescue vehicle. The vehicle will be supplied by Luverne Fire Apparatus Co. of Brandon, S.D. The chassis will be bought from Karl Chevrolet of Des Moines, which submitted a \$27,553 bid. Luverne's bid was \$62,425.

The truck most likely will not be ready until next year, Metzger said. The current rescue vehicle, a 1964 Chevrolet panel truck, is badly rusted, and parts for it are becoming more difficult to find, said Metzger.

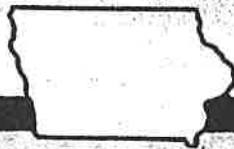
In further business, council members concurred with a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board to allow the city to charge \$6 an hour for use of the school gyms by the public. Currently the smaller gyms rent for \$4.50 an hour and the larger gyms for \$5 an hour.

Parks and Recreation Board members recommended the increase because of increases in staff salaries and equipment purchases. The rates have increased 50 cents since 1979.

The council also approved a contract with Snyder & Associates for design- and construction-related services on two projects scheduled for East First Street from Delaware Avenue through the east ramps of Interstate Highway 35. The contract is not to exceed \$93,000.

According to Metzger, the total state grant and federal money allocated for the projects is \$623,000. The city will pay \$122,000, or 16.4 percent of the estimated total project costs, Metzger said.

Page two



Iowa Report

Brain injury rehab center is planned for Ankeny

ANKENY, Iowa (AP)—A local company has plans to build a \$5 million center to rehabilitate brain-injured people despite losing in three attempts to obtain state financial assistance for the project.

The On With Life center will work to rehabilitate people with brain damage that may have resulted from automobile accidents, strokes or aneurysms.

"There's no other place like it in Iowa," said Leona Ringgenberg, an official for the Iowa Department of Public Health.

On With Life was denied money from the Iowa Department of Economic Development twice last year. It suffered its latest setback last month when Gov. Terry Branstad vetoed a \$250,000 state appropriation the Legislature had approved.

The non-profit group made up the difference with money from the private sector. The building will be smaller than planned — 27,000 square feet instead of 33,000 square feet — and a 12-bed transitional living cottage has been eliminated.

The bulk of the center's financing comes from \$3.9 million in municipal bonds. Polk County contributed a \$175,000 loan. The balance comes from contributions, bond interest and private sources.

On With Life will serve as a step between hospital care and independent living. Patients will stay between five and nine months, said director Marvin Tooman. Initially, 45 employees will staff the 22-bed center. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-August, with the center opening early next summer.

The state is in dire need of places like On With Life, said Lori Elliott, executive director of the Iowa Head Injury Association in Waterloo. The Iowa Department of Public Health estimates that brain injuries afflict 10,000 Iowans each year. Between 4,000 and 5,000 are hospitalized for minor head trauma, said Joann Muldoon, manager of the department's brain and spinal cord injury registry. As many as 1,500 are treated for moderate or major injuries.

Iowa has fewer than 10 centers that treat brain injuries, Elliott said.