



## **Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. KINGSBURG HEALING CENTER**

The proposed Kingsburg Healing Center is a public-private partnership between Fresno County and Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. Pending city approval, it will become a secure Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) in the former Kingsburg District Hospital.

Crestwood will purchase the site (which has been closed since 2010), secure the facility, improve it for appropriate use, and open the new center in 2015.

Mental health issues such as depression and suicide affect one out of every four families in our country, and this facility will provide much-needed help for many in this and surrounding communities.

We know that there are many questions about the new facility and its relationship with the Kingsburg community. We are respectfully asking the community to support the proposal and we are committed to answering your questions and concerns.

### **Project Details**

The Kingsburg Healing Center will be a Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), a secure, locked facility, serving a maximum of 44 clients. MHRCs provide rehabilitation programs in secure, residential settings with a focus on brief lengths of stay.

Clients will be carefully screened. No sex offenders, no one with a violent criminal record, and no one with primary drug or alcohol addiction will be treated at the facility.

Clients will participate in independent life skills training, behavior intervention, vocational and pre-vocational training, self-advocacy, peer counseling, case management and Crestwood's Wellness Recovery Action Plan program.

The clients of the Kingsburg facility will come from throughout Fresno County. They are people who are dealing with a category of behavioral healthcare issues that affect nearly 25% of all families in California. They want to get better and return to productive lives. Facilities such as the Kingsburg Healing Center help them do that.

### **About Crestwood Behavioral Health**

[www.crestwoodbehavioralhealth.com](http://www.crestwoodbehavioralhealth.com)

Crestwood Behavioral Health is a fully accredited, Sacramento-based healthcare provider, founded in 1968. We are an independent, California-owned and operated

company, and are the leading provider of mental health services in California, operating 30 programs across the state.

Crestwood provides a complete range of mental and behavioral care services, from traditional psychiatric services to innovative recovery programs, geared towards community reintegration. We operate all our facilities on the basic premise that mental health issues are treatable.

Our focus is on creating strong relationships with communities. That means we provide services to meet the needs of mental health clients and their families, making significant financial investments in our facilities, hiring trained and professional caregivers, and reinforcing a common set of values that guide our practices and policies. It also means that we work closely with law enforcement and community leaders to address their concerns and learn from their experience.

Crestwood is licensed and regulated by the California Department of Health Care Services, California Department of Public Health, more than 52 county health departments, and other federal and professional agencies. Crestwood is fully accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

## **Community Concerns About Safety and Schools**

People seeking help with mental health issues are not criminals. They need an environment where specialists can help them focus on getting better. But we know that there are often concerns when people learn that an MHRC or similar facility is proposed for their community.

Statistically, MHRCs pose no more risk than a hospital, clinic, or other healthcare facility. That doesn't just happen - we work to ensure community safety every day.

Most of Crestwood's programs are within 1/4 mile of a school. A program similar to the proposed Kingsburg Healing Center opened in San Diego in June, adjacent to two schools, with the sports field next to our campus. Our Bakersfield campus backs up to a large local sports field and park. Our Sacramento/American River campus is adjacent to a new multimillion-dollar senior living campus and across the street from an elementary school. All operate safely and in close coordination with local law enforcement and community leaders.

### **Consider these points:**

- **Experience and track record.** Crestwood has more than 45 years' experience providing care for people in all walks of life dealing with mental health issues. We start with the premise that mental health issues are treatable and know that people in facilities, such as the proposed Kingsburg Healing Center, want to deal with their issues and return to productive roles in society.
- **Working with law enforcement.** Long before any facility is planned, we reach out to local police, sheriffs, and other first responders to hear their concerns, allow them to become familiar with our facilities and procedures, and work

closely with them to address community concerns.

- **Locked, secure facility.** The Kingsburg Healing Center will have numerous physical and operational safety precautions. These include a new 10-foot fence that will be constructed around the property's perimeter, security cameras, alarms on doors and windows, a single checkpoint for entry and departure, regular patient counts, and highly-trained personnel.
- **Intake and admission criteria.** Crestwood and Fresno County will carefully screen people prior to admission or treatment. The facility will not admit anyone requiring drug or alcohol treatment. No registered sex offenders will be admitted.

### **Why the Healing Center Will Be a Plus for Kingsburg**

The Kingsburg Healing Center represents an important economic investment and an investment in the community's health and well-being.

Crestwood plans to invest more than \$2 million to transform an abandoned hospital building into a much-needed treatment center.

In the short term, construction-related activities will benefit the community. More importantly, the Kingsburg Healing Center will create more than 50 permanent jobs for residents of Kingsburg and surrounding communities, as well as the benefits it will provide to vendors and suppliers nearby. The facility will also serve as the hub of a network of healing for community mental health, involving non-profit organizations, churches, and other local groups working on improving the area's health.

### **How You Can Learn More**

Go to our website ([www.crestwoodbehavioralhealth.com](http://www.crestwoodbehavioralhealth.com)) for more about Crestwood, our facilities and other information about how mental health issues are treated. You can also contact the project's manager: Patricia Blum [pblum@cbhi.net](mailto:pblum@cbhi.net).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. *Why locate a mental health facility in Kingsburg?*

It is much needed resource in Fresno County. It will also put to use a hospital building that has been vacant for more than six years and has fallen into disrepair (vacant buildings frequently attract homeless people). The facility was designed to be a healthcare center, and Crestwood will renovate it, create more than 50 new jobs, and make it a positive contributor to the community.

2. *How do I know it will be safe?*

There will be a 10'4" wall fence surrounding the yard area for the program. Entrances will be locked and cameras will monitor the exterior. Clients will be supervised at all times by trained personnel. Crestwood, which has been operating for nearly 50 years, has an excellent safety and service record throughout the state.

3. *Kingsburg is a very special community. Won't this affect property values in a negative way?*

No. It should increase the value of the neighborhood because the old hospital building, which has fallen into disrepair, will be renovated and the maintained as a benefit to the community. A new, renovated building should help property value. The project will create 50 new jobs with competitive salaries. The closing of Kingsburg Hospital, combined with the loss of two major employers in recent years, makes this more important than ever.

4. *What kind of experience does Crestwood have with facilities of this type in other communities?* Crestwood has enjoyed a positive working relationship with Fresno County for ten years. Our facilities in Carmichael, Eureka, San Jose, Sunnyvale and elsewhere are in stable neighborhoods with schools and other community facilities nearby. These facilities have been operating safely for more than 25 years, and in some cases for nearly 40 years.

5. *What about the children who attend Kingsburg Elementary? Won't they be at risk?*

We are confident the answer is no. We base this on our safety record, our plans to lock the facility and install a 10-foot fence, and to ensure that it is always staffed by trained personnel supervised and licensed by California and other regulators.

6. *What kind of people will be treated there?*

People with a mental health issues such as depression, bipolar disease, schizophrenia and similar challenges that affect one out of every four families.

7. *Will the facility treat sex offenders, people with violent criminal records, alcoholics or drug addicts?*

No.

8. *Have you talked to local police and emergency responders about the facility?*

We have begun discussions with Kingsburg's Police Chief and are in the process of answering his questions and reaching out to other first responders and school leadership. We will ensure that all response protocols are carefully coordinated with them.

9. *What kind of plans do you have if someone gets out of the facility?*

Because this will be a secure, locked facility, with trained personnel, the likelihood is very low, but Crestwood has developed effective contingency protocols that put community safety first. These entail filing detailed plans ahead of time, working closely with police and first responders, and appropriate community notification.

10. *Do you have plans for adequate parking and traffic management?*

Yes. According to the city, the facility has more than enough parking. We do not anticipate significant additional traffic.

11. *How can I get more information?*

Visit [www.crestwoodbehavioralhealth.com](http://www.crestwoodbehavioralhealth.com) or contact the project manager, Patty Blum, at [pblum@cbhi.net](mailto:pblum@cbhi.net).