



## Setting the Record Straight



**The recent flyer, pictured above, circulating in the community contains numerous misleading and inaccurate statements about The Gathering Inn’s Medical Respite Program. Here are the facts:**

**Claim:** “100+ Bed Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter in Lincoln”

**Fact:** This is **not a homeless shelter**. It is a **60-bed medical respite program** for medically fragile individuals recuperating or healing after hospitalization. The grant application also outlines the long-term plan to provide long-term assisted living beds – the same use that the building had before – once TGI obtains a state Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) license to do so.

**Claim:** “Low barrier = drug use and criminals OK”

**Fact: Drug use is prohibited.** Guests in our medical respite program are medically screened, referred by medical professionals, and must follow strict program rules. No registered sex offenders are allowed. This is a structured, healing environment with 24/7 staff.

**Claim:** “TGI proceeded without following community outreach guidelines or notifying the City. No transparency!”

**Fact:** The Gathering Inn met all grant requirements, which prioritize engaging individuals involved with the need for medical respite care. Community organizations that provide medical care to this population in Placer County confirmed the need in letters of support. The California Department of Social Services reviewed and approved the application, confirming that TGI’s application fully met the grant requirements.

In addition, even though there was no requirement to do so, [The Gathering Inn’s President and CEO, Keith Diederich, met with Mayor Holly Andreatta on January 18, 2023](#), to inform her of TGI’s plans to pursue state funding to open a medical respite program in Lincoln.

[This meeting occurred prior to TGI’s request for funding to buy the property in Lincoln, which was submitted on February 13, 2023.](#)

The terms of the real estate transaction required confidentiality until the State funding was provided and TGI became the owner of the facility. [But the State itself found that there was sufficient community outreach to meet its guidelines and awarded the funding.](#)

**Claim:** “CDSS funded the \$6.4M grant against their own guidelines.”

**Fact:** [The California Attorney General recently defended the grant award and program in Placer County Superior Court, noting that the California Department of Social Services awarded the grant legally based on Placer County’s regional needs. On the facts stated, the Court rejected every one of the claims that the City had made to challenge the grant, including the City’s argument that TGI’s application was insufficient.](#)

**Claim:** “No business or medical license but labeled ‘medical’ respite.”

**Fact: No state license is required** to operate a medical respite program in California. [TGI is certified by the National Institute for Medical Respite Care.](#) Before operating a portion of the facility as a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (i.e., long-term assisted living), TGI will obtain the required license.

**Claim:** “3rd largest of its kind in CA next to SF & LA in a city of only ~50k!”

**Fact:** This is **not a shelter** and is **not among the largest programs**. Many California shelters exceed 300 beds. Our 60-bed medical respite program is designed to address **regional** healthcare needs, not just the healthcare needs of unhoused Lincoln residents.

**Claim:** “Lincoln has <20 homeless & Placer County has ~350 unsheltered.”

**Fact:** Many people experience homelessness in Placer County, not just people who are chronically unsheltered. People who are temporarily homeless or are currently sheltered need this valuable service too. All of them need help, not just the ones who are living outside in Lincoln. [Community medical organizations confirmed that TGI’s existing medical respite program is not big enough to meet the Placer County need.](#) Placer County residents referred by the hospitals are turned away every year because there aren’t enough beds available.

**Claim:** “The State wasted taxpayer \$\$\$\$ and gave a nonprofit more authority than our city.”

**Fact:** [Medical respite programs save taxpayer dollars by reducing hospital stays and emergency room visits by people who rely on public assistance.](#) **Medical respite care guests often achieve sustainable housing after discharge** through our support services and case management, breaking the cycle of homelessness and benefiting the community.

### Closing Summary

**Medical respite is not a shelter. It provides dignity, care, and stability to medically fragile individuals, helping them heal safely and move into permanent housing.**