

May 22, 2017



Mayor Laugoudakis and Assembly Members,

I would like to ask you to reconsider funding for Petersburg Mental Health Services before you vote on the budget in the third reading.

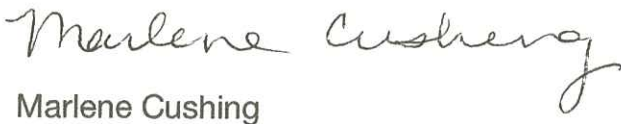
I am fearful of the consequences for our town if PMHS must limit their services to only those that meet the State's criteria for getting help. I remember well what it was like nearly 40 years ago when I arrived in Petersburg as the Public Health Nurse. I remember suicidal adolescents being locked in a jail cell for their safety. I remember people waiting for weeks to see a visiting counselor from Ketchikan.

Susan Ohmer and the staff at PMHS have built a responsive, effective and multi-faceted program to address acute, chronic and preventative mental health issues, for anyone in the community. They are compassionate and committed.

PMHS is facing severe cuts from multiple funding sources. An abrupt termination of all Borough funding will severely impact what they can offer, and therefore severely impact our citizens and our town.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Marlene Cushing