



Above: Hundreds of people tried to crowd into the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 8 as Sunshine Behavioral Health CEO Chad Daugherty (not shown here) and other company representatives attempted to describe the Mountain Springs drug and alcohol rehabilitation center's methodology and operations planned for the site of the old Ramada Inn on Woodmoor Drive. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Inn was, it was a bigger threat than what we are providing." He stated there was a history of trouble at the hotel, with police called out to crimes including sexual assault and domestic violence. Terri Hayes, of the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Com-

merce and Economic Development Corp., also said this would be a better option than what was there before.

Barlow too sought to reas-

sure residents about child safety. She said that she had not yet seen the Lewis-Palmer School District 38's review comments that could be made "through the county process." She had conversations with the school district, which had said it would not take a position but had had its chief of Safety and Security walk the property with the facility's new owner. She quoted D38's Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman as saying, "Our initial interactions have been very positive, and thus far we are confident we can work with the new owner towards a safer overall environment for our students than the current situation."

Barlow said she had told D38 that a lot of people had expressed concern about the proximity to schools to which she said the district's emailed response was, "We know. I have told quite a few folks about our work with the owner. However, we do see this as a positive change for our students at this

point." (**Note:** Wangeman said at the Aug. 20 Lewis-Palmer School Board meeting that it seemed the district was misrepresented at the meeting. See related article on page 6.)

Barlow also addressed concerns about property values and traffic. She said that while she appreciated property values

were a concern, they were not one of the land use criteria and therefore not considered. She said the traffic study had shown that traffic with the proposed facility would be less than that associated with the hotel.

The audience showed much sympathy for Dhiraj Acharya, one of the owners of the Curry



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