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Drug Center Wins Praise

~~Drug Abuse Center~~
A county drug treatment center is doing such a good job it deserves some federal aid, county supervisors said Tuesday.

The Rev. Gene Dawson may not be saving all the youngsters at the Drug Abuse Prevention Center from ruining their lives with drugs, but he is doing the best he can and better than anyone else in this county with such a service.

That was the sum of a report by a county committee made up of blue-ribbon officials who evaluated the center.

Supervisor Dan Forbus said the same thing in presenting the report to fellow board members Tuesday: "He may not be curing all the youngsters, but he is doing an effective job."

There had been low rumbles of discontent about the privately-operated center at the old General Hospital building and its financing.

Dawson's center exists totally on private contributions.

When the evaluation committee was announced, "People got the impression the center was under attack by the county," Supervisor Ralph Sanson remarked. He said a resolution should be passed commending Dawson and the center.

Forbus agreed. "We approached this from the point of offering advice and help," he said. "There were some minor changes made."

Chairman Henry Mello noted that Forbus' report on the center said it "deserves the financial and moral support of the community." He remarked that federal funds may be available to provide the financial help.

Supervisors backed Mello's proposal to have the county staff search for any federal funding programs. They also agreed to have the evaluation committee made up of the sheriff, district attorney, probation officer, hospital and welfare officials and private physicians remain in existence and meet each six months to continue aiding the drug abuse program.