

# Counseling center plan for Live Oak

By JOAN KLINGENBERG

Live Oak residents who succeeded in ousting a drug abuse prevention program from a church building on 7th Ave. had a new issue today. It arises from a proposal to house a counseling center for alcoholics in the same building.

After hassling with neighborhood residents and county officials over a use permit for the former Twin Lakes Baptist Church, the religious-oriented Drug Abuse Preventive Center moved out of the building about four months ago.

In the words of center director Rev. Gene Dawson, the organization tired of "spinning its wheels" with the county. The

county denied a permit for Dawson to run a live-in rehabilitation program for drug addicts a couple of years ago, but the DAPC operated the center without a permit until four months ago. During the controversy, Live Oak Supervisor Dan Forbus cast the key vote which prevented the granting on the permit after he polled the neighborhood. This week the county's planning department staff is reviewing a proposal for a live-in rehabilitation program run by Janus Recovery, Inc., an organization which operates the county's community counseling services for alcoholics.

Janus plans to move its counseling, outpatient and referral

center now located at the old Santa Cruz hospital buildings on Emeline Street to the church building. Like the DAPC, Janus runs a drug-free rehabilitation program; Janus plans to provide 20 beds for alcoholics to live at the center for an average period of three days until they can move back to their homes or to recovery homes.

Frank Wright, the controller for Janus, said this week Janus wanted to move out of the old hospital buildings which "look like a jail."

Under the Janus plan, the DAPC will continue to temporarily operate its day care center for children at the church.

Janus contracted with the county in October to run the

alcohol rehabilitation program at an annual cost of about \$250,000, said Wright.

Janus provides a 24-hour counseling service for its patients who are an average age of 40 and are mostly men. Patients are referred by friends, wives, hospitals and law enforcement agencies, and are given clean clothes, a bed and counseling opportunities when they arrive, said Wright.

"We try not to turn anybody away," he added.

The planning department's Environmental Review Committee has issued "a negative declaration" to the Janus proposal, which means committee members found the project not to have

any prospective adverse environmental impact.

The plan is scheduled to be heard by the planning administration on Thursday and then will be forwarded to supervisors for their approval. By that time Forbus will have been replaced by Supervisor-elect Phil Baldwin.

In the meantime, a few residents from the DAPC still live at the church, Dawson said. But about 100 DAPC people had to be relocated from the former church when the DAPC was recently unable to obtain county approval for a replacement facility in the Santa Cruz mountains.

"We're stickin' our people wherever we can," remarked Dawson.