

Oklahoman times

9 07 89.

Bellmon Advised Against Signing Narconon Support Document

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Gov. Henry Bellmon is being advised not to

get involved in a dispute over a proposed drug treatment center in Newkirk, an aide says.

"It would be inappropriate for the governor to sign any document endorsing a drug treatment center prior to completion of the Department of Mental Health's review of the facility for certification, Andrew Tevington, Bellmon's aide, said Wednesday.

A group of Native Americans asked Bellmon to sign a proclamation about drug abuse that mentions the Narconon Chilocco New Life Treatment Center.

A few members of the group made speeches on the south steps of the Capitol Wednesday, saying five Indian nations in Oklahoma have banded together to address the problem of drug abuse.

But some critics feel the group is simply trying to promote the Narconon center because the company wants to use 165 acres of the 96-year-old Chilocco Indian School, which closed in 1980.

The Chilocco Development Authority has representatives from the Ponca, Kaw, Pawnee, Otoe-Missouria and Tonkawa tribes. The authority leased Chilocco to Narconon for 25 years in

an arrangement that could bring in up to \$16 million.

The Native American group's proclamation says the Indian nations were showing their dedication to the war against drug abuse by helping establish the Narconon center.

The Narconon proposal has generated opposition in Newkirk because of Narconon's reported link to the Church of Scientology, which some consider a religious cult.

Narconon plans to open a 75-bed center this fall, and buildings are being renovated.

The Oklahoma Health Planning Commission approved Narconon's application in January, granting the organization approval for an initial 75 beds.

Organizers said the Narconon center will draw on the group's six outpatient clinics in the United States and Canada. Some beds will be available for local drug abusers as well, officials said.

The state Department of Mental Health will assess the Narconon drug treatment program when it is in place and rate it according to accepted standards in the field, state officials said.

State Worker Linked To Narconon Promoter

Mental Health Staffer's Activities Probed

By Randy Ellis
and Michael McNutt
Staff Writers

As an employee of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health, Leroy Bridges "actively lobbied" his colleagues in support of Narconon International's proposed drug treatment center near Newkirk, a memo states.

Meanwhile, Bridges had ties to a consulting firm hired by Narconon International to help that controversial drug treatment organization in its application for a certificate of need from the Oklahoma Health Planning Commission.

Bridges denies any wrongdoing, but his activities are being probed by federal investigators.

Records on file in the Oklahoma Secretary of State's office show that Bridges filed a document June 6, 1988, in which he applied to reserve the name Treatment Development Corporation.

Treatment Development Corp. was hired by Narconon International to help the Los Angeles-based firm with its certificate of need application, according to both Bridges and Sherry Barry, a Norman woman who heads Treatment Development Corp.

The proposed treatment center has been controversial because of Narconon's links to the Church of Scientology, which some people consider a cult.

Bridges acknowledged reserving the name Treatment Development Corporation, but said he did not have any direct connection with the consulting firm.

"If you'll look at the documents, you'll see that the corporation and everything was set up for Sherry," Bridges said. "She set it up. Since I'm

at the Capital Building, I've done this for several people — check a name. I just reserved the name until she could set it up."

Barry also denied that Bridges, whom she described as a friend, has any role with the company which is operated out of her Norman apartment.

However, attorney Richard Mildren, who is listed as service agent for Treatment Development Corporation, said he agreed to serve in that capacity at the request of Bridges, whom he described as a friend.

Mildren said Bridges also apparently signed him up to serve as service agent for Narconon International.

Mildren said he knew almost nothing about either corporation and didn't even know he was listed as the service agent for Narconon International until he received a notice from the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Mildren said a senior partner in his law firm has asked him to withdraw as Narconon's registered agent and he is trying to take that action.

Mildren said he did not know if Bridges received money for his actions in behalf of Narconon or Treatment Development Corporation. Bridges said he was not paid.

Both Barry and Bridges attended a ceremony in April at the old Chiocco Indian School with Narconon and tribal officials associated with the Chiocco Development Authority.

Bridges was listed as vice chairman of the Oklahoma Cultural Diversity and Economic Development Task Force and a member of the founding board of Red Earth Inc., while Barry was listed as being with Treatment Development Corporation.



Leroy Bridges

Opposition to the facility began a month later when a Newkirk newspaper editor published articles linking Narconon to the Church of Scientology.

During a public hearing held in May by Newkirk city officials, Bridges, along with Howard Miles, a member of the Health Planning Commission, tried to calm residents' fears about the Narconon facility.

Bridges said Narconon's drug treatment plan was based on philosophies of Church of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, but said he found the plan to be acceptable and added it would have to be certified by the state Department of Mental Health before Narconon could open.

Although Bridges presented for Newkirk residents a positive view of Narconon, such views were not universal within the Mental Health Department.

Steve West, director of the alcohol and drug abuse division of the Department of Mental Health, had expressed strong opposition to Narconon's proposed treatment center in an Oct. 18, 1988, memo to J. Frank James, who was

then mental health commissioner.

West cited Narconon's relationship with the Church of Scientology and stated, "As I understand it, Narconon will allow indigent clients to work off their bill. The Indians they are supposed to be helping could become indentured servants."

"I have heard they want to start with 150 beds and eventually go to 1,000. This is a factory, not a center."

"Narconon has never been certified as a treatment program in California where they currently operate," he said.

"Although Leroy Bridges has been favorably impressed with this program and actively lobbied for its existence, I cannot agree," West wrote. "I think from what I have heard, there is little substance to the program and we could regret ever getting it started in Oklahoma."

Bridges, in an interview last week, said he no longer is involved in state Department of Mental Health dealings with Narconon's proposed facility.

Bridges, who had served as legislative liaison for the Mental Health Department, was reassigned earlier this year by interim Commissioner Don Anderson and is now coordinator of special projects.

Mental Health administrators sent out a memo last week reminding employees to remain impartial concerning Narconon's proposed treatment center.

Barry said she "sometimes" still does consulting work for Narconon, which is now seeking certification from the state Department of Mental Health to open its 75-bed facility.

Staff writer Ed Godfrey contributed this report.

State Agency Ordered to Act on Narconon Certification

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

NEWKIRK — A judge on Friday ordered the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health to determine by next month whether a substance abuse center operating without state approval should be certified to remain open.

In the meantime, the Narconon Chilocco New Life Center will be allowed to operate, but is prohibited from accepting new patients, according to an order issued by district Judge Neal Beekman.

Thirty-five patients are at the facility, located on the grounds of the old Chilocco Indian School, said Bill Burkett an Oklahoma City lawyer representing Narconon.

Friday's hearing, attended by more than 60 people, was held after the state Depart-

ment of Health sought a temporary injunction to shut down the facility.

Beekman issued his order after both sides came to an agreement during more than two hours of discussion in his chambers.

Rob Cole, a lawyer with the state health department, said officials with the agency will have access to Narconon records to make sure no additional patients are accepted until the facility wins state certification and licensing.

"I don't envision them violating the court order," he said. "Significant sanctions would be imposed if they violate the court order."

Tim Bowles, a lawyer with Narconon's

offices in Los Angeles, refused to comment after the hearing.

But Burkett said he was confident Narconon could meet the mental health department's certification requirements.

"We don't see any problems with that," he said. If Narconon is turned down in its certification bid, "then it's a new problem," he said.

The facility, operated by Narconon International, has been treating patients since February without a license from the Department of Health or certification from the Department of Mental Health.

Narconon originally contended the facility was exempt from state law because it is on Indian land. But Narconon's agreement

to comply with Beekman's order seems to make that argument moot.

Narconon last month applied to have its program certified by the mental health department. An agency spokeswoman said then that Narconon's program could not be inspected sooner than November and that the State Mental Health Board would not act until January.

Beekman ordered the mental health department to inspect Narconon by the end of this month and have its staff make a recommendation on certification at the board's October meeting.

Janie Hipp, an assistant state attorney general assigned to the mental health department, said the state agency can meet

Beekman's schedule.

Hipp said people wanting a public hearing would have to make a written request to the mental health department after the staff recommendations are released but before the October board meeting.

Most of the people attending Friday's hearing said they were against Narconon primarily because of its ties with the Church of Scientology, which some consider a cult.

"I would like to see Narconon removed from Kay County, the state of Oklahoma and the United States," said one man, who like most others would speak only on terms of anonymity. "I do not like the Church of Scientology."

If Narconon wins certification from the mental health department, it still must be licensed by the health department

Nov 20 1990

State Board Blocked in Narconon Case

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

FORT SUPPLY - Efforts to license a Kay County substance abuse center operating without state approval were brought to a halt Thursday.

The State Mental Health Board, scheduled to act Thursday on certifying the Narconon Chilocco New Life Center, found itself crippled by a court ruling. The ruling blocked the board from using material prepared by Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services staff on the 75-bed facility.

Mental health department officials said it was the first time a court tossed out a staff recommendation.

A ruling Wednesday by Oklahoma County District Judge Leamon Freeman, in response to a suit filed by Narconon against the mental health department and

Ruling Throws Out Licensing Recommendation

board, also left board members without legal counsel for the meeting.

The state attorney general's office, which normally serves as legal representative for state agencies, is representing departmental staff in the Narconon suit and could not represent the board Thursday. Board members legally were outgunned, as Narconon officials showed up with six lawyers, including Boston attorney Earle C. Cooley, the Church of Scientology's national trial counsel.

The rehabilitation center, located at the old Chilocco Indian school north of Newkirk, has drawn criticism for its ties with the Church of Scientology and for using a treatment method developed by church founder L. Ron Hubbard.

Board members floun-

dered for three hours and drew jeers from Narconon supporters before deciding to appoint a committee and hire a lawyer.

"You need counsel," Neal Leader, an assistant state attorney general told the board. "It's a sad mistake for you to proceed or do anything without counsel."

Harry Woods, an Oklahoma City lawyer representing Narconon, told board members that Narconon officials demanded a full hearing Thursday so that the center could be certified. At the same time, Narconon has mounted a federal court challenge of the state's authority to license the Chilocco facility. Narconon attorneys argue that the state has no regulatory authority since the center is on Indian land.

Woods said part of the

state recommendation could be submitted as evidence the center meets state regulations. Narconon also was prepared to provide several experts to testify to the program's effectiveness, he said.

But board member Murray E. Abowitz of Oklahoma City said it was impossible to get a full hearing without getting expert comments from people other than those connected with Narconon.

Woods conceded one reason Narconon officials want certification is to appease a Kay County district judge who ordered that Narconon accept no new patients until it is certified.

Narconon Chilocco at the time of that ruling had 35 patients, but is down to about 24, Woods said.

"We're losing \$90,000 a week," Woods said.

None of the staff members who worked on the initial Narconon recommendation will be used in the upcoming evaluation of the program.

"I want to get a clean, untainted report on this evaluation," board member Stewart Beasley of Edmond said.

Meanwhile, Narconon, along with the Tonkawa tribe, challenged the state's authority to license the facility because it is on Indian land.

Narconon is leasing 167 acres from the Chilocco Development Authority.

Maynard Hinman, a member of the Ponca tribe, one of the five tribes involved in the authority, said his tribe is against Narconon hiding behind the mask of Indian sovereignty.

"It's in the lease for Narconon to obey all federal, Indian and state laws," Hinman said.

SATURDAY

OKLAHOMAN & TIMES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1991

HOMA CITY, OK

701P

Board Denies Certification For Narconon

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

A state board Friday denied certification for a controversial drug and alcohol treatment center, and gave the facility seven days to move out its patients.

The action ended a more than year-long effort by Narconon Chilocco New Life Center to win certification and likely will set up a court battle.

Harry Woods Jr., a lawyer for the facility, indicated he would appeal the board's decision in Oklahoma County District Court.

Narconon officials earlier said they had invested more than \$3.5 million to renovate the campus. It's unknown how many people work at the facility.

The Oklahoma Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services voted 6-0 to deny certification for Narconon Chilocco,

which sought permission to operate a 75-center north of Newkirk at the former Chilocco Indian School.

Board member Sue Ellen Read abstained from voting because she was not at the board's October hearing when members heard more than 12 hours of evidence.

Board member Stewart R. Beasley Jr. asked that 27 patients now at Narconon Chilocco be removed within seven days because "the program is basically unsafe. Their well-being is at risk."

Board members said their decision was based on the safety and effectiveness of Narconon Chilocco's treatment program.

Narconon's ties with the Church of Scientology were not considered, they said.

The program relies on a sauna and exercise plan,

and until October billed itself as "drug-free."

But Dr. Ray Stowers of Medford hired by Narconon Chilocco in September, told board members that drugs were administered during the detoxification part of the program.

Board member Dr. L. Dwight Holden said he noticed improvements in the keeping of medical records at Narconon Chilocco since Stowers arrived, but said there were too many health concerns to certify it.

With a program like Narconon, which is unique in its approach, there "is a need to prove the safety and effectiveness," he said.

Holden, who visited Narconon Chilocco two days ago, said he was concerned the facility lacked a certified drug and alcohol

See NARCONON, Page t



From page 1
hol abuse counsellor
and the staff had little
formal training in the
drug and alcohol
abuse field.

Guy Hunt, an assistant state attorney general, said state officials probably will try to dismiss an Oklahoma County court order that allowed Narconon Chilocco to treat up to 40 patients while its certification was pending.

After seven days, state officials could seek a court order to close the facility.

Hurst said the state should have authority to shut down the facility, because Narconon Chilocco, while on Indian land, is a non-Indian entity.

He said tribal police could be asked to intervene if jurisdictional problems arise.

Board members refused a request from Woods to allow Narconon Chilocco to remain open until the matter is appealed and a court decision is rendered.

Hurst said it could take as long as two or three years for a final ruling if the matter is appealed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Narconon Chilocco, operated by Narconon International, has been accepting patients since February 1990.

It applied for certification in August after state officials sought a court order to close the facility.

"Our main concern is with our 27 clients in the program," said Gary Smith, president of Narconon Chilocco. They all selected Narconon for treatment and are doing well. A couple of them are court-ordered to be here from other areas.

"We will be appealing this in court. This is not a new situation with the Department of Mental Health. We were forced to go to court with them a year ago because of their insistence of putting

bias and prejudices into their reports," Smith said.

Lawyers for Narconon Chilocco then filed up the process in the court system for about a year, forcing the board to hire an independent inspector to evaluate the program.

Mental health department staffers were allowed to get back into the certification process three months ago. Staff recommended denial for Narconon Chilocco's application. Board members made their decision after deliberating for about three hours in closed session.

They heard about 4 1/2 hours of testimony, including that of two former students who said temperatures were as high as 200 degrees in saunas at the facility.

In October, board members listened to more than 12 hours of comments about Narconon Chilocco, and met for three hours in

closed session before giving Narconon Chilocco until Friday to correct 13 areas of concern.

Reasons board members gave for the denial of the Narconon program's certification included:

- * The program treats an drug addiction the same.

- * Patients are required to sweat up to five hours a day, seven days a week for 30 days to get rid of fat-stored drugs and chemicals. They said there is no scientific basis for the technique.

- * The program requires a high dosage of vitamins for patients, called "drug or vitamin bombs" and min-

erals that can be potentially dangerous, they said.

Vital signs are not taken every six hours during the detoxification process.

Narconon hires former students to work at the facility immediately after they leave the program.

- * A majority of the treatment plan and course work does not involve education about drug and alcohol

abuse treatment or addiction.

A former student, Dwaine Burgess of Newkirk, said he was told he could drink up to two beers daily after he graduated from Narconon.

Burgess, who went to the facility for alcohol problems, went back to Narconon twice after going on drinking binges following his graduation from the program.

OKLAHOMAN

OKLAHOMAN & TIMES , DECEMBER 14, 1991

Drug Center May Be Forced to Leave Tribal Site

By Michael MoNutt
Enid Bureau

NEWKIRK - A drug and alcohol treatment center denied state certification could be asked to leave the bid Indian school campus it is leasing, early next year, the chairman of a tribal board which owns the property said Saturday.

Meanwhile, actress Kirstie Alley, the most visible advocate for Narconon Chilocco New Life Center, said Saturday the state Mental Health Board had a hidden agenda when on Friday it, by a 6-0 vote, rejected the center's certification request.

Robert Chapman, chairman of the Chilocco Development Authority,

said he sees no reason why Narconon Chilocco should stay on the grounds of the Chilocco Indian School much longer after its 27 patients are sent to other facilities.

Chapman, chairman of the Pawnee tribe, said he will call a special meeting of his board to discuss establishing a schedule for Narconon Chilocco to vacate the premises. The board is made up of tribal heads from the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, Kaw and Tonkawa tribes.

Chapman said it's likely Narconon, which has accepted patients since February 1990, could be off the Chilocco campus within three months.

Chapman said Narconon officials told authority members that the facility would be state certified and licensed.

"We're holding them to it," he said. "We don't understand how they can even operate without the certification."

The issue of whether state officials will be allowed on the campus, which is Indian restricted land managed by the authority, for the purpose of shutting down Narconon Chilocco if it fails to comply with a state order to shut down the facility.

That issue, he said, will be discussed with the authority's lawyers.

The Oklahoma Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in denying certification, gave Narconon seven days to move out.

Narconon plans to appeal in Oklahoma County District Court.

The center's lawyer, Harry Woods Jr., said he also will ask for a stay order allowing Narconon to continue operating until the appeal process is completed.

Woods made the same request to the mental health board, but board members denied it, saying the appeal process could take two or three years.

Board members said they wanted the patients moved out in a week because of concerns over patients'

well-being.

Board members said they questioned the safety and effectiveness of Narconon's treatment of saunas and vitamins for patients.

The board said the treatment offered by Narconon Chilocco is experimental and is not medically safe.

Chapman said he will ask board members to set up a procedure to monitor Narconon's departure to make sure no buildings are damaged.

"The tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs probably will be monitoring them very closely," he said.

In a statement released Saturday,

Alley said: "It is an unconscionable attempt by the representatives of vested interests to stop a truly effective program that saves lives."

"The board's decision can only have been reached by people who have practically no regard for the lives of drug addicts and who are set on keeping society on drugs."

Alley, star of the show, "Cheers," has praised Narconon's program and has traveled to Oklahoma several times to speak on behalf of the center.

"I myself effectively dealt with drug addictions over 12 years ago through the Narconon program," she said. "It helped save my life."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Narconon

Decision

Draws Fire

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

While supporters rallied behind a controversial Narconon alcohol and drug treatment center, state officials who denied its certification responded Monday to verbal attacks made by the facility's spokeswoman.

A statement released by the Oklahoma Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services said the seven-member board was "disappointed in the critical reaction and comments" of actress Kirstie Alley, the national spokeswoman for Narconon Chilocco New Life Center.

Alley, star of the TV show "Cheers," said Saturday that board members were biased against Narconon Chilocco.

Alley, who has praised Narconon's program and has traveled to Oklahoma several times to speak on behalf of the center near Newkirk, said board members had "no regard for the lives of drug addicts and ... are set on keeping society on drugs."

Alley made the comments after board members voted to deny certification and gave Narconon seven days to move out its 27 patients.

Board members, in a statement prepared by lawyer Patrick M. Ryan of Oklahoma City, said they were "not satisfied, based on the evidence presented in two days of

See NARCONON, Page 2

Narconon

From Page 1
hearings, that the Narconon program provided adequate safety to persons undergoing treatment at Narconon's facility."

Board members in their decision Friday said the treatment offered by Narconon Chilocco is experimental and is not medically safe.

Alley, who vent through a Narconon-style program 12 years ago, said, "There is no doubt in my mind that the arrogance and irresponsibility of the mental health board will not survive the outrage of the many thousands of parents, graduates and supporters from the scientific community this deci-

sion has triggered."

Patients and staff members at Narconon Chilocco announced Monday they were starting a statewide petition drive to obtain support for the center.

Gary Smith, president of Narconon Chilocco, said more than 600 signatures already have been collected from residents "all over northern Oklahoma."

"We are pooling our resources to fight this injustice in whatever arena required, and ultimately the truth will come out," Smith said in a prepared statement.

State officials received letters from several countries, written by people angry

with the decision, said Guy Hurst, an assistant state attorney general who presented evidence for mental health department staff members during two days of hearings.

Harry Woods Jr., an Oklahoma City lawyer representing Narconon Chilocco, said he will file an appeal of the board's decision this week in Kay County District Court.

Health department lawyer Rob Cole said he will file motions asking that his agency be allowed to be heard in the case.

"We can't have a facility that is theoretically dangerous to the residents there continuing to operate," he said.

2-28-92

Narconon Tries Defense On Indian Sovereignty

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

PONCA CITY - Lawyers for an unlicensed drug and alcohol treatment center argued Thursday that it is exempt from state regulations under the cloak of Indian sovereignty.

Narconon Chilocco New Life Center is on the campus of the old Chilocco Indian school north of Newkirk and as a result is exempt from state efforts to shut it down, lawyer Harry Woods Jr., said.

But state lawyers, in a hearing in which the Oklahoma State Department of Health is seeking a court injunction to shut down Narconon Chilocco, said the facility's location is not enough to claim Indian sovereignty.

Narconon Chilocco is a non-Indian entity that treats non-Indians, Robert Cole, a lawyer for the health department said.

Henry Hartsell Jr., a public health administrator with the health department, said to claim sovereignty a facility must be owned by Indians, on Indian land and treat only Indians.

Hartsell noted that the state recognizes sovereignty for a Cherokee Indian treatment center and a Choctaw Indian drug and alcohol treatment center because each meets those three requirements.

District Judge Neal Beekman presided over the five-hour hearing and took the matter under advisement.

He asked lawyers on both sides to prepare written arguments within three weeks. He said he could make a ruling by the end of next month.

Woods said the state should back away from regulating the center.

He showed a letter sent earlier this week from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to Narconon Chilocco to show that the federal government is taking on jurisdiction.

But the letter, from L.W. Collier Jr., area director of the BIA office in Anadarko, tells Narconon Chilocco it has a month to get its program certified by the state or it will be violating its lease with the Chilocco Development Authority, an Indian board that manages the Chilocco campus.

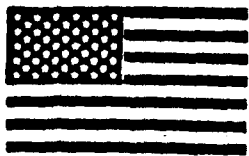
Collier's letter says Narconon Chilocco agreed to comply with Oklahoma laws in the lease, which includes getting its program certified by the Oklahoma Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Collier also told Narconon Chilocco to make arrangements to move its patients to licensed facilities.

Marcellus Chouteau, a former Kaw tribal chairman and former chairman of the Chilocco Development Authority, testified that the BIA made a mistake in giving the state of Oklahoma any authority in the Narconon Chilocco lease.

"That land is Indian land," he said. "The state has no part in it. We had governments even before this state became a state. Now the state of Oklahoma is trying to cram it down our throats."

Narconon Chilocco started accepting patients in February 1990. State officials sought an injunction to close it, and an application for certification filed with the state mental health board has been rejected.



SATURDAY OKLAHOMAN & TIME

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1992

Narconon Gets State Mental Health Exemption

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

A controversial drug and alcohol abuse center in north-central Oklahoma achieved a big victory Friday in its two-year battle for state approval.

Less than a year after calling Narconon Chilocco New Life Center's treatment program unsafe and experimental, the Oklahoma Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services voted unanimously Friday to exempt the facility from a state requirement to be certified.

The decision came after Narconon showed it had gained approval from a private organization, the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. That allows for an exemption under state law, Patrick Ryan, an attorney representing the board, said.

Ryan said the board's decision was based entirely on the statutory exemption.

"That's different from certifying them," he said. "The board has not ever, and did not by today's action, give a

stamp of approval of Narconon. It simply says because of the statute, we're going to recognize it (the exemption)."

Narconon Chilocco still must be licensed by the state Health Department. The state licensing would be based primarily on whether a facility's buildings, which were the old Chilocco Indian School north of Newkirk, meet fire and safety codes.

The health department could rule the center does not need a state license, Harry Woods, a lawyer for Narconon Chiloc-

co, said.

"I expect that the department of health will recognize that with this exemption from certification, Narconon can lawfully operate in Oklahoma," Woods said. "The form of the action would either be a license, or a decision by them that we don't need a license."

Narconon Chilocco officials said Friday they were confident the center would be licensed, possibly by the end of the month.

See NARCONON, Page 15

OKLAHOMAN &

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1992

Narconon

From Page 1

Gary Smith, Narconon Chilocco president, said he was pleased the center is the closest yet to being allowed to operate at full capacity.

Smith said Narconon Chilocco will go ahead with plans to operate a 75-bed facility but will wait until the state Health Department rules before accepting new patients.

Those patients would pay more than \$20,000 for a three-month program that is based on saunas and vitamins.

Long-range plans call for doubling the center's capacity within the next five years.

"We're going to make sure that we're doing this the way we're supposed to," Smith said.

After being denied certification last year, Narconon Chilocco limited its operation to accepting Indian patients whose bills were paid by contributors. Smith said Friday there were seven patients and 24 employees.

State mental health board members, who voted in December against Narconon Chilocco, agreed Friday with the center's contention that it was eligible for the exemption because it was accredited in June by the private Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

The state attorney general's office, however, argued against the exemption, saying that the board did not

have the authority to exempt a drug and alcohol abuse center based solely on the commission's accreditation.

"The statute says that only a list of certain people can be exempted," assistant attorney general Guy Hurst said. "All others need to be certified."

Hurst said he also does not believe Narconon Chilocco is eligible for licensing by the state Health Department because the center was not certified by the mental health board.

"The way I read the statute is the only way you can get licensed from the health department is to be certified — if you're exempted from certification you can't get licensed," he said.

Lawyers for the state health department were unavailable for comment.

Narconon Chilocco's accreditation expires in June 1993. If it fails to get accredited next year, it likely will have to return to the state mental health board to ask for certification, officials said.

Woods, who guided Narconon Chilocco through several state hearings and lawsuits, said the center plans to drop two lawsuits it filed against the state mental health board.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Newkirk said many residents were disappointed by the state mental health board's action.

Manx in the town

said they were opposed to Narconon Chilocco because of its ties with the Church of Scientology. Some said they were threatened after they spoke against it in 1990.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Category	Newspaper Article
Title	Tribes seek new Tenant for School
Source	“The Oklahoman”
Author	Dawn Marks
Date	<u>November 12th, 2001</u>

Contents:

NEWKIRK - The Indian school on the prairie stands empty once again. Chilocco, once active with American Indian youth learning skills for life now is quiet, its century-old limestone buildings sagging.

Tribal leaders know the value of the site north of Newkirk, both cultural and economic, and are trying to find a new tenant. Narconon, a drug-treatment center that uses the teachings of Church of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, has moved its drug and alcohol treatment center from Chilocco to Arrowhead Lodge in Pittsburg County.

The five tribes that own the campus - Kaw, Ponca, Otoe, Pawnee and Tonkawa - have formed the Confederated Tribes of Chilocco to find a way to use the campus and surrounding acres and perhaps the money to do it.

“It's just a matter of finding something that will fit,” said Wanda Stone, chairwoman of the Kaw Tribe. “It's going to take money to operate it.”

The tribes hired a consultant to determine what would be the best uses for the campus. The report is expected by the end of the year. Possibilities include gaming, fun parks, a museum and an Indian junior college. Proceeds from any business on the campus would benefit tribal projects such as health services, scholarships and funeral expenses, Stone said.

Two security guards live on the site to prevent vandalism and the tribes are working with Narconon to repair some of the buildings. Narconon officials took parts from some buildings to repair others. Narconon used only part of the campus but had planned to expand to use most of it eventually, Stone said.

Each tribe has contributed an initial \$4,000 to try to improve the grounds, although some of the buildings may be beyond restoration, Stone said.

When it was established by the Indian Appropriation Act of 1882, Chilocco was a school Indian children could attend for free, said Bob Chapman, president of the Pawnee Nation.

The school closed in 1980 because of low enrollment and the land reverted back to the Cherokee Tribe, which gave it and its 167 acres to the other tribes. The Cherokees also gave 830 acres from the surrounding area to each tribe, Chapman said.

In 1989, the tribes leased the land to Narconon. Stone said the first contract did not include an audit provision. Tribal leaders could not determine whether Narconon was paying the correct amount. The lease payment was based on a percentage of Narconon's clientele.

Chapman said the contract gave each tribe a few thousand dollars each year but he did not have the exact figures. After mediation, a new contract was signed in January 2000 requiring Narconon to leave the campus within three years.

Narconon Executive Director Gary Smith could not be reached for comment.

Former students have many fond memories of the school, said James Edwards, president of the Chilocco National Alumni Association.

When Edwards attended the school from 1942 to 1947, approximately 1,100 students lived, learned and worked there.

“We did raise all our beef, quite a bit of grain,” he said. “We were pretty well self sufficient. We had our own hospital.”

Students kept the school in top shape through maintenance projects.

“That was part of their training,” Edwards said.

Chilocco had an array of sports, including a recognized boxing team and a football squad that beat some universities. Many of the high school students at Chilocco were as old as college students because they started their education late, Edwards said.

Alumni are collecting memorabilia to try to preserve some of the school's history. They also would like to meet a few times a year at the site later, if the five tribes will allow it, he said.

“We do enjoy going back up there,” Edwards said. “It was just a second home for some of them.”