



# City of Friendsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 3, 2025**

## **Village Behavioral Health Withdraws Land Development in Friendsville**

**Friendsville, TN** – The City of Friendsville has been formally notified by Village Behavioral Health, a division of Acadia Healthcare, that the organization has withdrawn its land development plan and will no longer pursue the development of a behavioral health facility at the proposed site within the city limits.

Over the past two years, Village Behavioral Health has been evaluating the possibility of relocating its adolescent treatment center, currently based in Louisville, to Friendsville. The proposed facility was designed to serve both male and female youth experiencing severe mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD in a secure, therapeutic setting.

As part of their planning process, the organization conducted detailed site and infrastructure studies. According to their letter, they ultimately determined that the property could not provide adequate access to domestic water and fire suppression of water supplies, which posed significant safety concerns. In addition, the resources and manpower required to provide emergency services raised concerns about response times. Due to these critical limitations, Village Behavioral Health has officially withdrawn its application. It will seek an alternative location in the region, according to Adam Gravley, Assistant Director of Design and Construction.

The Mayor and Commission extend their sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the public meeting hosted by Acadia on June 23, 2025. Friendsville citizens showed strong engagement by attending in large numbers, voicing their concerns, and actively supporting one another, evident signs of a committed community. Many went above and beyond by rallying neighbors, mailing postcards, and even launching a website to ensure their voices were heard. Because this meeting was not an official city meeting, it was not formally recorded or held under the requirements of state law, members of both the Planning Commission and the City Commission were advised by legal counsel to attend only as observers. In compliance with the Tennessee Sunshine Law, their participation in public discussion was restricted to prevent any violation of open meetings regulations.

The City also acknowledges the broader concerns raised by residents regarding growth and development. Zoning changes were previously discussed during the Planning Commission's workshop in November 2023, and the City Commission approved a revised zoning ordinance during its second reading in March 2024. These updates are part of the City's continued efforts to manage responsible development along the Highway 321 corridor.

While this project will not move forward, the City remains committed to working closely with the city planner, legal counsel, and the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) to guide future zoning, land use, and infrastructure planning in support of balanced growth.