

the opioid crisis overwhelmed its two existing facilities, both in Fall River. About one in five people who seek care can not find a bed on the day they inquire, and a large majority of those served already live in Fall River, she said. # But the proposal ran into opposition even before SSTAR paid \$675,000 for the three-acre plot at 75 Weaver St. in February 2017. # The plan calls for building a three-story, 43,500-square-foot facility that would house medical offices providing primary care and medications to treat addiction, plus 30 beds for detox and 30 for post-detox treatment. # The city's North End Neighborhood Association expressed fears about increased crime and asserted that Fall River already has enough treatment facilities. # State Representative Carole Fiola, whose district encompasses the mill site, has opposed the proposal in columns in The Herald News of Fall River. She argued that while it's important to address the opioid crisis, Fall River is already doing its fair share and " it's time other communities step up. " # Advertisement # In July 2018, Fall River's director of inspectional services, Glenn Hathaway, refused to issue a permit for the proposed facility, saying that only the medical offices are permissible in that zone, not the inpatient centers. SSTAR appealed to the city's Zoning Board of Appeals, which voted 3 to 2 in November to uphold the permit denial. The next month, SSTAR sued Hathaway and the zoning board. # Much of the opposition focused on the fact that the medical offices would provide methadone, along with buprenorphine and naltrexone, the other drugs used to treat addiction. Methadone treatment requires daily visits by patients and " always brings challenges, " Fiola said,