

CITY OF PENDLETON

Office of Chief of Police
622 Airport Road
Pendleton, OR 97801
Phone (541) 276-4411
Fax (541) 276-9108
Dispatch (541) 966-3650
www.ppd.pendletonpolice.or.us

February 28, 2013

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support - Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mountain Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

Dear Honorable Members of the Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee,

My name is Stuart Roberts. I currently serve as Chief of Police for the City of Pendleton. I have been employed as a law enforcement officer in Umatilla County for over twenty years, the last ten plus as Chief of Police. Although there are many challenges associated with administering emergency services in this economic climate, I cannot think of any greater deficiency in state or local services than those available to an ever-growing population of Oregonians in need of assistance to deal with addiction and/or mental illness issues.

It is not uncommon for law enforcement officers to deal with persons (veteran and non-veteran) suffering from drug/alcohol induced psychosis or more acute clinical mental illness on a daily basis as "gatekeepers" of the criminal justice system. The aforementioned statement is validated by the fact that the Pendleton Police Department struggled to deal with an alarming 39% increase in calls for service related to the mentally ill in 2012. Because, many of the persons in crisis whom law enforcement personnel encounter on a regular basis are self-medicating to cope with their respective conditions, all too often the significance of said contact(s) is a criminal charge and lodging in jail, which exacerbates the identified problem. The consequence is that criminal justice system, which is not designed or staffed to deal with the mentally ill, becomes overburdened with individual(s) who often times do not have the mental capacity to understand what they have done wrong, and/or do not have access to services that promote sobriety or self-sufficiency. Therefore, precious tax dollars and court time are wasted on evaluating competencies and/or trying to manage non-compliance with court ordered sanctions. The analogy I often use is; introducing mentally ill persons to the criminal justice system is like putting them on a merry-go-round and spinning it faster with every new criminal charge or judicial process. Pretty soon, the person becomes disoriented, as time passes things become a blur and pretty soon, there is no way to get them off without causing significant/irreversible damage.



The bottom line is that the criminal justice system can no longer be the primary mental health provider in Oregon by default. We, as elected or appointed leaders must identify viable programs or methods of ensuring that all populations of Oregonians have access to appropriate services. Meaning, that we must invest in innovation, because what we are doing today is not working. I strongly believe that mental health, criminal justice and social service providers serving Umatilla County have come up with an innovative concept aimed at preserving jobs, filling a void in mental health services and collaborating to save the taxpayers in Oregon hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in response to the pending closure of the Blue Mountain Recovery Center located in Pendleton scheduled for January 1, 2014.

Briefly, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and a consortium of practitioners have been working very hard with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and state owned facilities, which are currently vacant to create a Recovery Campus. The purpose of the recovery campus is to serve the population of citizens who do not qualify for mental health services and/or should not be introduced to the criminal justice system, but are in need of assistance. GOBHI and its Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) are willing to take on the task of operating the proposed facility as a part of its overall system of care. The anticipated outcome is that the cost(s) associated with the treatment will be lower than less effective alternatives. Since treatment is a fundamental component of this proposal, the sustainability of lower costs is improved by providing clients with the skills and resources necessary for self-sufficiency.

Consequently, I offer this letter in support Blue Mountain Recovery Center's (BMRC) request for consideration of one biennium of funding equaling \$24 million. I would also encourage you to consider funding an additional one-time expenditure of \$4 million for the renovation of existing facilities to development the "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization program.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Stuart A. Roberts
Chief of Police



February 28, 2013

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mountain Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

I offer this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

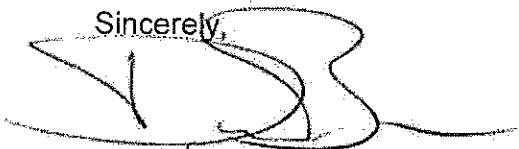
Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and partners have entered into discussions with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and the creation of a Recovery Campus. While GOBHI and its CCOs are willing to take on the risk of operating this facility as a part of its overall system of care to lower costs and treat individuals with the goal of re-entry to society as productive members of their communities.

Because the facility is scheduled to close January 1, 2014, time is of the essence and more time is needed to allow for patients to be served while the facilities are transformed.

As citizens of the communities in the region, we recognize the potential negative impacts to the public safety, hospitals and others should this facility close.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dennis E. Burke
President & CEO

UNION COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

1104 "K" Avenue, 2nd Floor, La Grande, OR 97850

Phone (541) 963-1007 Fax (541) 963-1080

Timothy R. Thompson, District Attorney
John L. Schilling, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Jared D. Boyd, Deputy District Attorney
Kelsie J. Davis, Deputy District Attorney

February 28, 2013

Ways & Means Human Services Sub-Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mtn Recovery Center (BMRC) in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

Dear Committee Members:

I offer this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

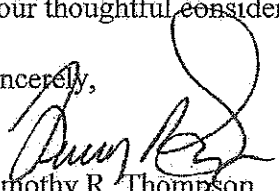
Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and partners have entered into discussions with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and the creation of a Recovery Campus. GOBHI and its CCOs are willing to take on the risk of operating this facility as a part of its overall system of care to lower costs and treat individuals with the goal of re-entry to society as productive members of their communities.

Because the facility is scheduled to close January 1, 2014, time is of the essence and more time is needed to allow for patients to be served while the facilities are transformed.

As a prosecuting attorney and member of our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, I recognize the potential negative impacts to the public safety, hospitals and others should this facility close. Such a facility is desperately needed. I believe this facility could reduce the numbers of referrals we currently make to OSH for Aid and Assist Evaluations as well as PSRB placements. I am well aware of the current capacity issues around serving these populations at OSH and welcome this opportunity to have a local resource that could be utilized in place of referrals to the State Hospital.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Thompson
Union County District Attorney

† CATHOLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVES

A mission to heal, a promise to care.

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL

1601 SE Court Avenue
Pendleton OR
97801

P 541.276.5121
F 541.278.3227

February 28, 2012

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mountain Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, Oregon, is in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

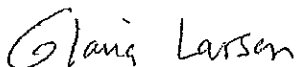
Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and partners have entered into discussions with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and the creation of a Recovery Campus. While GOBHI and its CCOs are willing to take on the risk of operating this facility as a part of its overall system of care to lower costs and treat individuals with the goal of re-entry to society as productive members of their communities.

Because the facility is scheduled to close January 1, 2014, time is of the essence and more time is needed to allow for patients to be served while the facilities are transformed.

As providers of health care in Pendleton, we realize that without Blue Mountain Recovery Center's existence, clients will seek care in less appropriate and more expensive avenues such as the Emergency Department of our hospital. GOBHI and partners are developing effective plans to handle the need and therefore the funds are essential.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Gloria Larson, MBA RN NEA FACHE
Vice President Patient Care Services



Center for Human Development, Inc.

2301 Cove Avenue La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 962-8800

Fax (541) 963-5272

TTY Dial 711

February 28, 2013

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mtn Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

I offer this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and partners have entered into discussions with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and the creation of a Recovery Campus. While GOBHI and its CCOs are willing to take on the risk of operating this facility as a part of its overall system of care to lower costs and treat individuals with the goal of re-entry to society as productive members of their communities.

Because the facility is scheduled to close January 1, 2014, time is of the essence and more time is needed to allow for patients to be served while the facilities are transformed.

As the Mental Health Director for Union County, I very concerned about the impact on our region with the closure of Blue Mountain Recovery Center. This proposal offers a new approach to meeting the needs for some very complex populations. Through this project I believe we have a real opportunity to reduce emergency room visits, jail stays, and local law enforcement interactions. This project holds the promise of real reductions in costs to the medical community, public safety and local community mental health.

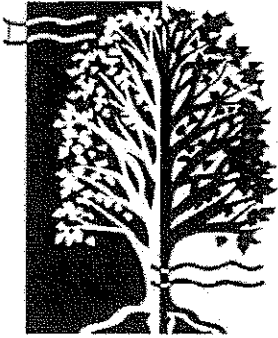
Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dwight W. Dill', written over a horizontal line.

Dwight W. Dill
Mental Health Director, Union County

Eastern Oregon
Alcoholism Foundation



February 28, 2013

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mountain
Recovery Center (BMRCC) in the Addictions and Mental Health
Budget**

Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to offer this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC **plus** include an additional \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

Along with my organization and other partners, the Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) has entered into discussions and planning with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and the creation of a Recovery Campus. I commend GOBHI and the partner CCO's for their willingness to take on the risk of operating this facility as a part of an overall system of care that will lower costs and treat individuals with the goal of re-entry to society as productive members of our communities.

Because BMRC is scheduled to close January 1, 2014, time is of the essence. Additionally, more time is needed to allow for patients to be served while the facilities are transformed.

As citizens of the communities in the region, and partners in care, we recognize the potential negative impacts to the public safety, hospitals and others should this facility close.

Residential Alcohol
and Drug Treatment

*Celebrating 50 Years
1960 -2010*

216 S.W. Hailey Avenue
Pendleton, Oregon
97801
Phone: 541-276-3518
Fax: 541-276-4189

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michelle Pingree

Michelle Pingree, MPA
Executive Director

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mtn Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

I offer this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

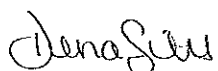
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As citizens of the communities in the region, we recognize the potential negative impacts to the public safety, hospitals and others should this facility close.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dena Sites, M.S.W, C.S.W.A
Quality and Utilization Coordinator
Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.

Umatilla County Community Corrections

4705 N.W. Pioneer Place

Pendleton, OR 97801

Phone 541-276-7824



Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mtn Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

I offer this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

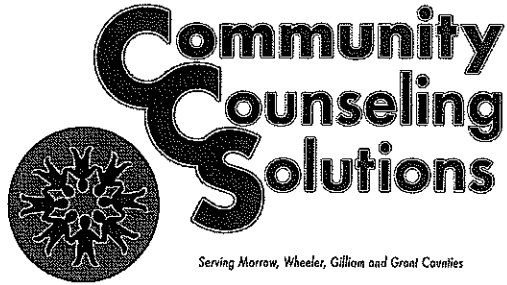
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I can speak most effectively to the second portion of the proposal that utilizes 25-30 beds for the purpose of transitioning inmates who are incarcerated either in county jails or state prisons and have the need for mental health treatment. This population is overrepresented in our custodial facilities and the real need is treatment access. We are aware the Governor and the Public Safety Commission is making recommendations to change focus on Public Safety funding and offer a reinvestment strategy that flattens prison growth in Oregon. This meets the goals of those recommendations. Our local law enforcement community has indicated support for this proposal and encourages your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Royal".

Mark A. Royal, Director
Umatilla County Community Corrections Department



February 13, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) strongly supports the BMRC proposal put forth by Eastern Oregon Human Services Consortium (EOHSC). EOHSC has long been committed to developing and utilizing a continuum of care in Eastern Oregon, including specialized treatment services for at risk or hard to place individuals. This development will allow for an expanded continuum and strengthen local programs by providing for increased participation in the delivery of treatment. Additionally, we feel that we will have greater involvement in placement decisions for local residents receiving services.

CCS has proven history of providing a continuum of care, quality services, excellent outcomes, and utilizing our most important resources, those we serve, in the delivery of care. Specifically, the David Romprey Oregon Warmline is an excellent example of this approach and a value that we will bring to the regional oversight of the BMRC proposal. With regards to the continuum of care, CCS owns/operates a secure residential treatment facility and an acute care facility, as well as providing clinical services in a residential facility. These are resources that we bring to the table when pursuing appropriate continuum of care options.

CCS is not adverse to risk that has been investigated, proven to be worthwhile and benefits the residents of Oregon. We welcome partnerships and are eager to embark upon this venture if approved. We lend our full support to the BMRC proposal.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lindsay
Executive Director
Community Counseling Solutions



CITY OF PENDLETON

Office of the Mayor
500 S.W. Dorion Avenue
Pendleton, Oregon 97801-2090
Telephone (541) 966-0201
FAX (541) 966-0231
TDD (541) 966-0230
www.pendleton.or.us

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mtn Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

I offer this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system.

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and partners have entered into discussions with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and the creation of a Recovery Campus. While GOBHI and its CCOs are willing to take on the risk of operating this facility as a part of its overall system of care to lower costs and treat individuals with the goal of re-entry to society as productive members of their communities.

Because the facility is scheduled to close January 1, 2014, time is of the essence and more time is needed to allow for patients to be served while the facilities are transformed.

As citizens of the communities in the region, we recognize the potential negative impacts to the public safety, hospitals and others should this facility close.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Phillip W. Houk, Mayor

City Of Pendleton

... Home of the World Famous Pendleton Round-Up ...



Union County
Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
1106 K Avenue
La Grande, Oregon 97850

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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As the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council for Union County, we are very concerned about the impact on our region with the closure of Blue Mountain Recovery Center. This proposal offers a new approach to meeting the needs for some very complex populations. Through this project we believe we have a real opportunity to reduce emergency room visits, jail stays, and local law enforcement interactions. This project holds the promise of real reductions in costs to the medical community, public safety and local community mental health.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Susan Cederholm, Chair



Mental Health Counseling Service
331 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton, OR 97801
Telephone: (541)276-6207

Ways & Means Human Services Sub Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Inclusion of Funding for Blue Mtn Recovery Center in Addictions and Mental Health Budget

As the Umatilla County Community Mental Health Provider, Lifeways offers this letter in support of the request in the amount of \$24 million which is equivalent of one biennium of funding for the BMRC plus \$4 million to allow for the renovation of existing facilities to development of a "Recovery Focused Campus" as part of the Coordinated Care Organization system. There is a paucity of community based alternatives to the state hospital that this request can ameliorate.

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) and partners have entered into discussions with the Oregon Health Authority to determine the optimum use of current staff and the creation of a Recovery Campus. While GOBHI and its CCOs are willing to take on the risk of operating this facility as a part of its overall system of care to lower costs and treat individuals with the goal of re-entry to society as productive members of their communities.

Because the facility is scheduled to close January 1, 2014, time is of the essence and more time is needed to allow for patients to be served while the facilities are transformed. Additionally, time is of the essence to preserve the skilled workforce currently employed at BMRC. An abrupt closure, even if the property is later repurposed to site the programs being planned, will result in a "brain drain" of licensed and skilled professionals. With a date certain for closure they are already exploring relocating to areas with these types of jobs. Pendleton is already a healthcare shortage area and recruiting people to live in Eastern Oregon has been an expensive and frustrating challenge. These professionals already live here.

As citizens of the communities in the region, we recognize the potential negative impacts to the public safety, hospitals and others should this facility close.

Your thoughtful consideration to this funding request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael Gregory
Behavioral Health Services Director
Lifeways, Inc.