

Jackson County residence have already stipulated that they want a CAHOOTS program. Many grassroots organizations plus the majority of residence see the need for professional help rather than jail time for people with mental illness and / or drug and alcohol addiction. We know the problem. Law enforcement, including the sheriff his department of deputies and the local police force in Medford have stated that throwing people in jail with these conditions does not help the individual or the community. We need the following:

- A 24/7 crisis center that sends out a mental health counselor and an EMT (if necessary) on calls dealing with alcohol, drug abuse cases and/or someone having a mental health crisis.
- A mobile crisis van available at all times.
- An assessment team of professional counselor.
- Several buildings to house individuals through the crisis and towards a healthy life in our community. A larger more modern detox center with professional counselors that can address the problem immediately. A separate mental health building with a staff on call day and night to address our community needs. The pandemic has proved that people under sever emotional, financial and health issues can develop mental health issues.
- Education programs for the public to understand mental illness and its effects on the family. Drug and alcohol education for the same reason.

It is in the best interests or our community that we all work together. Professionals in mental health and drug and alcohol abuse, law enforcement, and grassroots organizations together can make this happen.

The political will from our commissioners and our elected officials can make this a better, healthier place to live. This seems to be the blocking point not the community, not finances, not the need BUT THE POLITICAL WILL DO THE RIGHT THING FOR OUR COMMUNITY.