



Hunter Fiber Internet & Voice Helps Your Business Succeed.

Today is Monday, February 26th, 2024

All Classifieds | Employment | Real Estate | Automotive | Place a classified ad | Subscribe to the Grants Pass Daily Courier

Member Login

- Become a Member
Manage Your Account

Grants Pass Daily Courier Get Home Delivery

Home

Premium Content

- e-Edition
Front Page News
Community
Police
Obituaries
Opinion
Letters
Local Sports
Business
People
Food
Healthy Living
Entertainment
Home and Garden
Faith
Search Archives

Free Content

- Downtown Webcam
Crittter Cam 2
River Webcam
Bridge Webcam
TripCheck Webcams
So. Oregon Outdoors
Nation/World News
State/Nation Sports
Service Directory
WeeksWorth TV Guide
Movie Listings
Fun Finder
Local Music
Shopping Deals
Local Maps

Special Sections

Photo Galleries

All Classifieds

- Public Notices
Employment
Real Estate
Rentals
Automotive
Place an ad

Advertising

Customer Service

- Contact Us
Online Forms
Important Links
Important Contacts

Search: Local News Classifieds Obituaries Create search agent

Front Page News

Last Update Sunday, February 25th, 2024

More help for people waiting for addiction treatment

By Vickie Aldous of the Daily Courier

With long wait lists to get into residential addiction treatment across the state, the Grants Pass City Council gave the green light for OnTrack Rogue Valley to remodel buildings for emergency wait-list lodging plus an outpatient treatment clinic.

Councilors unanimously approved a special use permit this week for the project along Rogue River Highway in Grants Pass.

"The timing of this project could not be more appropriate. Mental health issues and addiction are at all-time highs. This project will help curb these issues that have become very prevalent locally, and get those who are waiting for treatment services the help they need," OnTrack said in its application.

A former Grants Pass Sobering Center employee who spoke at this week's City Council meeting said many people at the center want to get into residential treatment. But they leave the center with nowhere to go, he said.

A recovery mentor with Max's Mission, which provides overdose antidote kits and other services, said the organization tries to refer people to detox centers, but wait lists are too long and some die.

A mother and nurse whose adult child suffered from addiction said the OnTrack wait-list beds will be critical for residents struggling with addiction who want to get into treatment.

Sommer Wolcott, executive director for OnTrack, said in an email that OnTrack constantly has 170 to 200 people waiting for its residential treatment beds.

Pregnant women can often jump to the head of the line and get in within a month, but others can wait for more than a year, she said.

The project to remodel two business buildings, tear down a dilapidated house and add a parking lot will likely be finished in late summer or early fall, Wolcott estimated.

When finished, the site will have six emergency lodging beds for pregnant women waiting to get into residential treatment, plus 10 beds for others on wait lists.

OnTrack will also relocate outpatient treatment services from its current building at 720 N.W. Sixth St. to the new site in the 600 block of Rogue River Highway.

People staying in the emergency lodging won't be required to stop using drugs or alcohol, but they can't bring substances on site.

Wolcott said the people there will be in need of treatment at a detox facility to manage withdrawal symptoms and/or full-time residential treatment, so they won't be forced to participate in a lower level of care that might not meet their needs.

However, all will be welcome to participate in outpatient treatment and get mental health care, she said.

They can also get medical care, including medication to ease withdrawal symptoms and curb drug cravings, and will get daily visits from a peer support/case manager who will connect them to community resources while working to get them a detox or residential treatment bed, Wolcott said.

OnTrack already has a six-bed emergency lodging site for women and mothers in Medford that it operates in partnership with Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley.

Oasis provides medical care for families impacted by addiction, including patients in recovery.

In February, OnTrack opened a second Medford site with 12 emergency lodging beds for all genders, Wolcott said.

Although people there also aren't required to stop using alcohol or drugs away from the sites, OnTrack has found many are naturally reducing their substance use because they're in a safe and comfortable environment with daily support from a peer support/case manager, Wolcott said.

For the Josephine County and Jackson County wait-list lodging projects, OnTrack has received funding from Measure 110, the controversial voter-approved act that decriminalized drug use with promises of expanded treatment.

A Measure 110 oversight council of Oregon residents that awarded \$265 million in marijuana tax revenue to groups statewide didn't fund detox or residential treatment beds. Money went into clean needles, overdose antidote kits, peer mentors, housing and other support services.



ROGUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 50+ SHORT-TERM TRAINING PROGRAMS

Welcome to the AllCare Medical Group family! MOUNTAINVIEW A part of allcare (541) 471-2701 AllCareHealth.com/MountainviewAMG

New Patients Welcome allcare Medical Group Cedarwood (541) 476-8859 Greater Glendale (541) 832-5400 Illinois Valley (541) 450-3625 Mountainview (541) 471-2701 WellSpring (541) 474-6053

Mark Jones for COMMISSIONER Governing with Integrity I am committed to leading with honesty, ethics, and a steadfast dedication to the well-being of Josephine County. ElectMarkJones.com

POWERED BY TRUST ROE DRIVEN BY VALUE WE BUY CARS

|||1

Clubs/Support Groups

Help

Some groups were able to get leftover money outside the council's regular funding process for services like detox facilities and wait-list lodging.

OnTrack is among organizations advocating for Measure 110 money to be used for detox and residential treatment, along with other services.

A January study commissioned by the Oregon Health Authority said Oregon has 1,606 residential treatment beds, but needs 1,156 to 2,169 more.

Oregon has 349 detox beds to help people get through the often painful and sometimes dangerous process of withdrawing from drugs and alcohol, but needs 523 more, the study said.

Democrats and Republicans in the Oregon Legislature are in the midst of hammering out Measure 110 reforms that could include making possession of user amounts of hard drugs a misdemeanor crime again.

Democrats, who hold a 35-25 majority in the House and a 17-13 advantage in the Senate, have said they don't plan to tackle Measure 110 funding changes this year, but they do want to put more funding from other sources into detox and residential treatment facilities.

Last year, a Grants Pass City Council majority voted to pass \$890,000 in state homelessness and housing money to OnTrack for the wait-list emergency shelter and outpatient clinic project.

That money, combined with Measure 110 funding, is helping to make the estimated \$1.5 million project possible, according to Wolcott.

OnTrack will give the deed to its current Grants Pass outpatient clinic building to the city. The historic building, at one time home to the Yankee Pot Roast restaurant, was valued last year at \$450,000.

Reach reporter Vickie Aldous at 541-474-3813 or valdous@thedailycourier.com.

Steam is heating up

The biggest problem facing Steam Distillery, which just turned 2 in December, is elbow room. [Read More »](#)

Race for Robinson's seat in the Oregon Senate now includes Democratic candidate

He may not think much of his chances, but Tracy Thompson is determined to give voters a choice. [Read More »](#)

More help for people waiting for addiction treatment

Remodeling project at Josephine County Courthouse adds upgrades, courtrooms

The Josephine County Courthouse turned 100 in 2016. Some parts of it are now much newer than other parts. [Read More »](#)

Comments

Share your thoughts on this page

The following comments are from the readers of thedailycourier.com. In no way do they represent the views of The Daily Courier or thedailycourier.com. Comments will not be posted immediately, but will be approved and post periodically throughout the day. **Thank you for your participation.**

[Add your own comment](#)

Send questions, comments or suggestions about this site to comments@thedailycourier.com.
This site Copyright © 2024. Grants Pass Daily Courier / Courier Publishing Company.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

409 S.E. 7th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526-3003 | P.O. Box 1468, Grants Pass, OR 97528-0330
Phone: (541) 474-3700 | Toll-Free in Oregon: (800) 228-0457.
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m - 5 p.m.