

Good Neighbor Group Meeting #1

December 3rd, 2024 12 PM

Follow up Notes

<https://www.clackamas.us/recoverycenter>

Participants

Gary Cobb – Person in recovery

Kalina Kunert – zoning consultant

Cindy Becker – project manager

Cindy Saperstein – resident and business owner

Martin Saperstein – resident and business owner

Jennifer Pierce Zahniser – Son lives at WeBuilt

Melissa Melhus – business owner

Mike Cebula – Chair of Sunnyside West Mt Scott CPO, the closest Community Planning Organization

Sarah Schindlbeck – Person in recovery, director of 4D recovery

Miranda Warren – Admin for WeBuilt

Brian Gray – Business owner

Briana Manfrass – zoning consultant

Jennica Ashton - resident

Overview of Recovery Center project – Cindy Becker

Activities to date:

- Purchased the property, currently the Clackamas Elementary School property (formerly Cascade Heights Charter School).
- School may be demolished, or the newer section could be utilized – that is up to the provider.
- Will be applying for federal funds for a residential fence around the property.
- The property has multiple zones and will be rezoned into one.
- There will be a range of services – detox, residential treat, transitional housing, outpatient services, peer support, and more.
- Provider selection – The County has advertised for a provider to develop and operate the Center. Once a provider is chosen, they will take a greater role for this group.

Comments and questions:

Mike – long term plan is to do a variety of services – will the provider provide them all?

- Cindy B – there will be a contract with the primary provider and they can subcontract with others

Brian – will the provider be a nonprofit or for profit?

- Cindy B – it could be either. We did not restrict it to nonprofit. Either way they will have to meet the requirements in the funding. Fora Health and Cedar Hills Hospital have expressed their interest in being the service provider. A decision will be made soon.

Miranda – County will be funding center – are those funds secured or being raised? Where from?

- Cindy B – We have identified about \$18million to date from a variety of funding sources including federal earmarks, opioid funds, metro specialized housing dollars. Goal is \$40 million. We have also asked for \$10 million from the state and will continue fundraising.

Mike – timing?

- Cindy B– Hoping to get the contract approved in January, looking at 2026 to 2027 for opening. If the provider decides to demolish the building it would happen during that time too.

Martin – what is the security like in the meantime?

- Cindy B– property has been vacant since July, owned by NCPRD and they haven't seen any issues. The property is transferring to Health, Housing and Human Services (H3S) and county facilities staff will be maintaining the building. In the grant application process, we've asked the respondents to address safety of staff, residents and community.

General comments from Cindy B:

- Everyone will be at the center voluntarily. It is not a deflection center. People who are going through a deflection process may be referred to the recovery center, but it will not be a drop in center. They may come from an emergency room, or family, or other triage assessment sites that are in the community. People could be on campus for up to a year. Will continue to support people after they leave. Peer support. This is the first phase, starting with adults, could increase capacity in the future to serve youth.

Comments from people in recovery: Gary and Sarah

- Gary and Sarah talked about their respective experiences in recovery and the impact that the Center could make. They will continue to participate in the GNG so we can hear directly from people with experience.

Jennica –for detox, what does that look like for medical oversight?

- Cindy B – the provider will be able to answer in more detail, but it will be medically supervised detox.

Martin – is the center for people who have drug and alcohol problems - both?

- Cindy B – Substance use, yes, either or both. And Mental Health; their primary issue is mental health this would not be the best location, that could be the stabilization center.

Brian – what are the requirements for the provider?

- Cindy B– in good standing, able to receive Medicaid, meet licensing depending on their array of services. The webpage lists the services that are envisioned for the center.

Good Neighbor Agreement

Miranda – Good Neighbor Agreement, is it a document that will be enforceable? Or just a social contract?

- Cindy B– the Agreement is not a legal document but if there are issues/concerns, the county could always help address it. the agreement can set the tone for how to move forward.

Mike – moving toward a good neighbor agreement, what are the steps we will take to get to that point? Outline the process.

- Cindy B– that will be very organic, can send out examples of GNAs, will be up to the group and the provider.

Closing comments:

- Kalina – if anyone hears from neighbors or this group has concerns about how the site operates physically (crosswalks, sensitive areas) that would be helpful to know.
- Mike – should be sure there is a specific purpose for the meetings.
- Any questions? Please email Cindy Becker at cbecker@clackamas.us