

Scouts

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best."

The troop spent about two hours making sure the fire was "cold to the touch" before continuing on and hiking another 2 miles to a campsite for the night.

West said the troop had no idea their actions would spread across the state, but after fire officials heard the story, thanks began to pour in.

"A big thank you to the Boy Scouts of America for putting out an abandoned campfire in the Waldo Lake Wilderness this weekend," Willamette National Forest said on Facebook and Twitter. "This is an example of a fire that was stopped before becoming a bigger incident."



Members of Boy Scout Troop 50 from Stayton and Sublimity, who put out a potentially smoldering campfire. SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

"Great Job!" wrote the Oregon Department of Forestry. "Also a great reminder to follow fire season rules and

regulations, including keeping campfires in approved campgrounds and fully putting them out when finished."

Since then, the boys have been featured on television news, radio stations and now the newspaper. Their story has spread on social media like, well, a wildfire.

"We had no idea it would get this big," West said.

The boys on the trip included: West, Sebastian Fulks, Sterling Fulks, Clifford Gamble, Cutler Nelson and Conner Redman. The three adults were Gamble, Stephen Fulks and BC Nelson.

"It was an incredible experience," scoutmaster Scott West said. "They did exactly what we teach them. I was very impressed with the scouts and adults."

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Addiction

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County and almost every other jail in the country to foot the bill for years.

"It always boils down to what is your funding capacity," Wood said. "Do I think we have resources in the community to address these issues? Yes. Do I think there's capacity — and that's a key difference — the answer is no."

Living with an addiction

Langley began her first drug treatment at 14 years old, shortly after she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

But as she's moved in and out of treatment and counseling over the years, Langley's addictions only worsened.

She began living on the streets after leaving her parent's home at age 18. Her heroin addiction has hospitalized her multiple times.

"It's a perpetual state of fear and anxiety and pain. That's what your whole entire life is — day in and day out," said Taylor, Langley's mother. "And it's the same way for them."

Whenever she's on probation, Langley is required to complete a drug treatment program, participate in community service and pay fees. But she has never once checked in with her probation officer.

Instead, she's rearrested, goes back to jail and gets slapped with additional probation time.

"When they're in jail and they're sober, it's 'I want help. I'm just scared to get help. I've started to think about everything I've done. I'm ashamed, I'm hurt,'" Taylor said.

"But the minute they're released from there, the addiction kicks back in."

Taylor has met several parents who have experienced the same struggles, mainly through a group called "The Addict's Mom," which helps parents share their stories without shame.

It's where she met Tonya Epley, Leighanna Vanderhoof's mother.

Vanderhoof called Epley one night as she was being released from Marion County Jail for drug-related charges. She wanted to start treatment and said she didn't have anywhere safe to go.

But as soon as her mom picked her up, Vanderhoof wanted to be dropped off. It was 2 a.m.

"She couldn't even get in my car without saying, 'I don't know what's wrong with me, I just want to get high,'" Epley said.

Epley drove around for 45 minutes, not knowing what to do, before dropping her daughter off 20 or 30 miles in the opposite direction from where she wanted to go.

"And then I had to wait all night wondering if she was going to die," Epley said. "It's addiction, you know? It's a real, sick, vicious cycle."

Vanderhoof is back in jail, sentenced to 19 months, in part, for escaping from the transition center.

She wasn't given the option of going into a treatment program, so she asked for a longer sentence that includes a program. She's still waiting for approval.

"Obviously I am a criminal ...," Vanderhoof said. "I'm an addict, but I'm also more than that. I'm a mom. And I'm a person. And I just want help."

Lacking adequate resources

Medication-assisted treatment, or MAT, has proven to be effective in helping those with substance use disorder transition into sober living. It stops the effects of withdrawals, curbs cravings and doesn't allow a user to get high.

Paired with counseling, MAT is the "gold standard" for substance abuse treatment, according to John McIlveen with the Oregon Health Authority's opioid treatment program.

But few jails are able to afford the expensive treatment — the drug Vivitrol alone costs \$1,000 per shot — even though McIlveen said it saves money in the long run when individuals continue to stay clean and out of the criminal justice system.

"I don't think my daughter has enough strength in her to seek the help herself at this point," Taylor, Langley's mom, said.



Celina Langley with her mother Tammy Taylor. Langley has moved through treatment centers and jails as she battles Opioid Use Disorder. COURTESY OF TAMMY TAYLOR

Taylor said she doesn't believe she has many options for her daughter. Rehabilitation programs are out of the question until Langley voluntarily chooses to go. Even then, waiting lists are long.

Marion County only has 16 inpatient beds available through a nonprofit and the wait time can be 6 to 8 weeks.

"It's not as simple as saying, 'If we open up 20 new facilities everyone is going to be good,'" said Undersheriff Wood. "It's not as easy as saying you need to get help, because a lot of the time people don't."

Wood said this is why there needs to be an inpatient bed available the instant someone with an addiction decides enough is enough.

No statewide plan for treatment

Oregon has the highest percentage in the nation of people who need, but don't receive, treatment for a substance use disorder, according to federal data.

This is partially because a statewide plan to combat the opioid epidemic doesn't exist.

Mike Marshall, director of Oregon Recovers, said there's been a consistent lack of leadership throughout the state when it comes to addiction recovery. The advocacy organization is trying to fix what they say is a fractured and underfunded system of drug and alcohol treatment, prevention and recovery.

In the 2018 short session, Oregon Recovers pushed the Legislature to pass House Bill 4137, directing the Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission to study the scope of substance abuse in the state and design a strategic plan to combat a nationwide epidemic that has hit Oregon especially hard.

Oregon has one of the highest rates of opioid abuse in the country. An average of five Oregonians die every week from an opioid overdose.

Gov. Kate Brown declared addiction a public health crisis in Oregon the same day she signed the bill into law.

The commission is required to complete the blueprint by December.

Marshall says the statewide plan should include early childhood prevention, a dedicated funding stream and a plan to make treatment so accessible that when someone is ready for it, treatment will be immediately available and covered by all insurances.

This "continuum of care," he said, works to get rid of case-by-case interventions and tries to make addressing substance abuse a priority long before someone ends up in jail.

But because 80% of detox currently happens in jail — and 99% of people in jail will eventually be released — jails are a frequent stop on the road to recovery until additional prevention measures are in place.

Jails expand treatment options

Marion County Jail and the Transition Center already provide Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, connect inmates to sponsors and mentors, and provide group counseling through Bridgeway Recovery Services.

With these programs, Wood said the center has had some success helping inmates staying clean after release.

But like many jails around the nation adjusting to their new role as drug treatment centers, Marion County is looking at more options, including medication-assisted treatment.

"To continually just slap them on the wrist and put them back out there when they are a harm to themselves and a harm to society ... it's this perpetual revolving door."

Tammy Taylor

The county jail already pays for an individual to continue their medication-assisted treatments if they are receiving them at the time of their booking, but they do not have their own program.

Only 10% to 12% of the nation's nearly 4,000 jails have ventured into some form of MAT program, including a few Oregon counties.

The Yamhill County Sheriff's Office is one of them, having received a grant from the Oregon Health Authority to test a MAT program in their jail. Eligible inmates receive a daily dose of Suboxone — one type of opiate blocker — counseling and a plan for further medicated treatment upon release.

Richard Geist of the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office, said since the program started in April 2018, 120 inmates have received medication-assisted treatment while in jail and 42 have stayed clean and continued treatments after they left.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office also is using this treatment, but have opted to use Vivitrol for inmates who choose to participate. They pair the once-a-month shot with an intensive, long-term rehabilitation program for high-risk inmates, which includes counseling, homework and rewards for

progress.

Generally, a Clackamas inmate spends 9 to 12 months in the 114-bed treatment facility and six months at a clean and sober living center before graduating from the program. This past year, 85% of male graduates and 100% of female graduates have stayed sober.

"They are able to live life and start re-establishing their relationships with their family and friends again," said Brian Imdieke of Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. "And for our community — the crimes they were committing — they aren't committing them anymore. They're able to start giving back."

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office had to structure their budget so the state funding they receive goes directly to the treatment center, rather than the jail.

That's why Wood, Marion County's undersheriff, is pushing for Medicaid and Medicare waivers, expanded treatment capacity and additional funding.

"As a community, as a county, and as a state we need to figure out how to address addiction in a more substantial way," said Wood. "We just simply need more."

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