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additional costs are also incurred, from court processing to time spent in prison. In Oregon, substance abuse costs taxpayers more than \$650 million per year in criminal justice expenses alone, based on the most recent calculation of statewide costs of addiction, done in 2006.

There are also costs to the state's underfunded and overburdened foster care system. Alcohol and drug abuse was the single largest family "stress factor" among households where child abuse and neglect were present, according to the 2016 Child Welfare Data Book.

Linda Wacker, a program manager at Morrison Child and Family Services in Portland, said she's worked with parents who have had to wait months to get into treatment for alcohol and drug abuse. Meanwhile, their children may be in foster care. That day, she would tell lawmakers that people in substance abuse treatment programs are often a product of foster care themselves, completing the vicious circle.

On the bus ride down to Salem, a young father named Will Mora said he planned to tell lawmakers that there should be more treatment options for families. Beneath his black wave cap and baby blue hoodie, Mora had a twinge of sadness in his eyes as he spoke about missing his four small children, ranging in age from infant to 5 years old.

After being homeless, sleeping in tents and a motor home for about two years, he said his wife and children are now staying with family while he's in court-ordered treatment. In the meantime, he's separated from them.

"When people have to leave their significant other and kids, they're more hesitant to go into treatment," he said.

The need for more residential treatment facilities that allow families to stay together came up repeatedly throughout the day as Street Roots asked people in recovery what they would like to see change in the state's alcohol and drug programs.

But resoundingly, the No. 1 problem people in recovery said needed fixing is the long wait lists for in-patient treatment.

For some people struggling with addiction, waiting a few weeks to get into treatment can be the difference between life and death.

Mykia Page said she's lost a "few close friends" to drug overdose. One of them was on a waitlist for residential treatment when he relapsed and died of a heroin overdose about a year ago, she said.

Another issue that resurfaced again and again throughout the day was the length of time treatment programs last. Many people in recovery said it's misleading to tell someone they are "graduating" from a program after a certain number of weeks or months have passed.

Recovery is lifelong work, and people need support that stays with them long after they exit rehab, many said. This is why creating a system of long-term recovery and support is a main tenet of Oregon Recovers' platform.

Nancy Lisicki said she'd like to see drug and alcohol program providers adhere to a "policy-bound method" of keeping in contact with graduates long after they leave. Her son had "graduated" from a 30-day residential treatment program. But, she said, "it wasn't long enough. My son died."

Page went through residential treatment

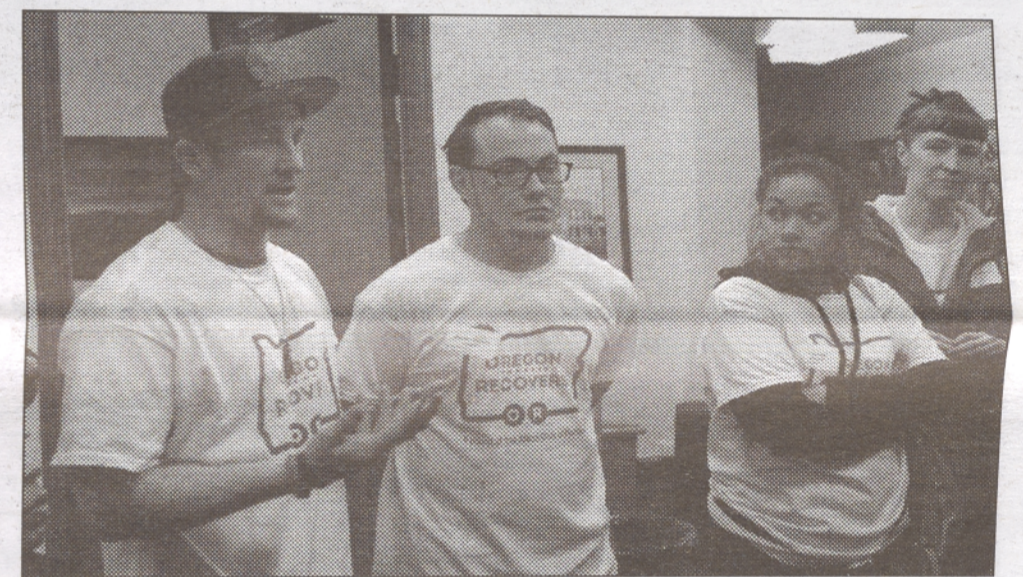


The Oregon Recovers coalition gathers at the state Capitol in Salem on Feb. 13 for lobby day.

PHOTOS BY EMILY GREEN



Gov. Kate Brown addresses the Oregon Recovers crowd, throwing a shoe into the pile outside the Capitol. Each shoe represents a life lost to addiction.



Oregon Recovers members talk to Kristina Narayan in House Speaker Tina Kotek's office.



Shannon Olive talks to Sen. Lew Frederick (D-Portland) who told Oregon Recovers members about how addiction has touched his family.

programs three times before she was able to stay off methamphetamine for good. The first time, she stayed clean for six months. But the second time, after graduating from a program at St. Vincent De Paul that lasted 58 days, she stayed clean for only four days after leaving the program.

"I felt OK. I was excited to get out," she said, "but 58 days wasn't long enough for me."

The third time Page entered treatment, it was after discovering while in jail that she was pregnant. Now she's been clean for 2½ years and works as a recovery mentor at the 4th Dimension Recovery Center. On Sunday

afternoons, she leads a group for other young single moms in recovery, where they can vent and share their struggles.

Once the bus arrived in Salem, its passengers joined a crowd of nearly 200 people, all either in recovery or there as an ally.

Oregon Recovers co-founder and director Mike Marshall said he was "thrilled" with the turnout. The goal was to recruit 100 people, but they ran out of the Oregon Recovers T-shirts and lobbying packets, and they had brought 150 of each.

"This is our first year doing this, and it's been a huge success," Marshall said. "To see

people in recovery stand up and turn recovery into power – it's amazing to watch."

Marshall, former executive director of City Club of Portland, has been in recovery for more than nine years.

He said a big challenge for the state moving forward is finding new ways to connect people to treatment. Oregon has long relied on the criminal justice system as an intervention tool, but fewer people will be incentivized into court-ordered treatment now that simple drug possession is no longer a felony for first- and second-time offenders with no prior felony convictions.

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