



Vassar Byrd, marketing director for the Patton Home, talks about the major financial losses that caused the facility to change from a residential care facility to one serving low income single adults. PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Patton Home Change Brings Uncertainty

continued ▲ from Front

After the last of three residents needing nursing services have been placed in other facilities, Byrd will begin filling the vacant rooms with low-income adults. Most of the new residents will be routed to Patton Home through transition projects like homeless advocacy groups and substance abuse treatment programs.

Humboldt area neighbors aren't sure what to think of the change. Byrd said a house across the street hung a sign that said, "Save Patton Home." At a recent community

meeting, some neighbors expressed concern that the facility was closing permanently. Others thought it was becoming an alcohol and drug treatment facility.

Byrd said she tried to calm neighbors as best as she could. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings will be held every Thursday, but the Patton Home will only admit residents with at least 30 days of sobriety. Under current criteria, residents are allowed to drink in their rooms and have at times become drunk and disorderly on the front lawn. No overnight visitors will be allowed, and Byrd does not expect the new

residents to add to neighborhood crime.

"These people are clean and sober and they need a place to live," she said. "This could be their first step towards independence."

As for the current residents of Patton Home, 40 of 57 have been relocated to other facilities and 17 who do not require nursing care will keep their rooms.

Some are happy to go and others are more than pleased to stay. "I'm leaving just as fast as I can," said Herman Stevenson, who has been a resident for a year and

six months. "It's hell in here."

Stevenson tells of a time when fire trucks were parked outside three times a day every day because of medical emergencies. Another time he said a fellow resident was hit over the head by an un-medicated, mentally disturbed man from down the hall. One of his friends was dead for two days before anybody found the body, Stevenson said. More than anything, he just wants an apartment of his own. In a room he describes as 'too small,' his belongings are half packed and all that hangs on the bare walls is a poster of the twin

towers and two American flags.

"I wanted to leave those up until September 11th," Stevenson said. "But now it's time to go. You suffocate in here."

Phyllis Harden couldn't have been happier when she was told she could stay. She loves the neighborhood. Her bank is around the corner and the library is just up the street. She grows 'wonderful tomatoes' in the garden and enjoys all the staff at Patton Home. They affectionately call her the 'Queen Bee.'

"I've loved it in here," Hardin said. "I don't ever want to move."

Residents Jerry Howell and Bruce Parker echo her opinion of Patton Home.

Howell, a wheelchair bound recovering drug addict, and Parker, who describes himself as depressed with a learning disability, will both get to stay — with their pets. New residents will not be allowed pet privileges, but Howell will be able to keep his cat 'Baby' and Parker can keep his medical companion, a dog named 'Ally.'

Byrd hopes the first of Patton's new residents will begin to move in Thursday or Friday of this week

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Primary Care Manager Hired

Carol Jones-Williams has been named manager for primary care services at Kaiser Permanente health care facilities in north Portland.

Jones-Williams was an assistant hospital administrator and operations manager for a 306-bed Kaiser Permanente hospital in Los Angeles.

She has also been director of health services for the public school system in Culver



Carol Jones-Williams

City, Calif. and worked in a number of public and private health care settings in California.

She holds a master's degree in public administration from California State University and a certificate in health care programs from the University of Southern California.

A Beaverton resident, she and her husband have a son and daughter.

Woman Survives Yellow Jackets Attack

(AP) — When Renelle Lethlean of Vancouver saw yellow jackets streaming from a hole in the vaulted ceiling of her home, she figured the best way to stop them was to get out some caulking.

Bad idea. She stood on a window ledge trying to plug the hole, and a chunk of sheet rock from the ceiling gave way. A swarm of the angry wasps fell, circled

her head and then made its way down her left arm.

She scrambled down a ladder and ran outside, where neighbors soaked her with a hose and began pulling yellow jackets off her head, legs, arms and back.

"They followed me like a black cloud," said Lethlean, 40. "I could feel them sting, pull out and sting, over and over."

Her doctors stopped count-

ing the stings when they got to 205.

Now three weeks after the Aug. 28 attack, Lethlean, a clerical worker at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, is walking again — albeit with a limp. And her doctors say that if she gets stung again, it could be fatal; they have her carrying an emergency shot of epinephrine.

"I have a new appreciation for people in pain," she said.

Free Community Forum

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Forum Speakers

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