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Ending Stigma of Addiction

Rep. Tawna Sanchez, a Portland lawmaker and Native American leader known for advocating for children and families, has been honored for sharing her own story of recovery and for her work giving back to the community in meaningful ways.

Sanchez represents inner north and northeast Portland in the state Legislature. She recently received the annual Freedom award from Fora Health, formerly known as De Paul Treatment Centers, to recognize community members who foster healthy communities with outspoken support for addiction treatment access and quality.

Sanchez, a long-term recovery patient herself, has been a behavioral health champion in the legislature for years and, with a personal understanding of the direct impact funding has on a patient, recently helped lead Oregon's historic investments to support those who struggle with addiction and mental health conditions.



Rep. Tawna Sanchez is recognized for her work ending the stigma of addiction and giving back to the community in meaningful ways, receiving the annual Freedom Award from Fora Health, formerly known as De Paul Treatment Centers. Sanchez represents inner north and northeast Portland in the Oregon Legislature.

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Lives Saved at Care Facility Fire



Countless lives were saved by the heroic efforts of employees and firefighters when a fire broke out overnight at Hope N Cavvre, a southeast Portland residential care facility located at 12045 S.E. Pardee St.

Employees, firefighters rush into action to make rescues

Countless lives were saved by the heroic efforts of employees and firefighters when a fire broke out overnight May 11 at a southeast Portland residential care facility.

At least 16 people were evacuated out of the front of the structure and 8 more victims were safely evacuated by firefighters from at attached two-story building, saving everyone in both buildings and preventing a horrible tragedy, officials said.

The fire broke out just after

1 a.m. at Hope N Care, located at 12045 S.E. Pardee St. Officials said the fire had the potential to be a mass casualty event had it not been for care facility employees and Portland Fire & Rescue's firefighters, who together evacuated everyone in the building and prevented a horrible tragedy.

"I want to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to everyone that was involved in this successful, lifesaving operation — Our IAFF Local 43 Fire Fighters at Portland Fire & Rescue, the Hope N Care staff, Portland Police Bureau, AMR, TriMet, Red Cross, and mutual aid partners Clackamas County Fire and Gresham Fire," said Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty who oversees the Fire Bureau.

Hardesty said the timely response saved lives and underscores the importance of a well-resourced Fire Bureau that maintains 4 person crews.

"These dangerous fires demand extra resources throughout the entire City and I'm thankful to all that stepped up to ensure the continuation of services for all Portlanders while this rescue operation was underway," Hardesty said in a prepared statement.

Fire Chief Sara Boone also commended firefighters along with the heroism of two on-site employees who risked their lives starting the initial evacuation of the residents under heavy fire conditions.

There was no word on the cause of the fire which is under investigation.

DIVERSITY

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