

## Health and Human Services admiral visits Great Circle Recovery Portland



Contributed photo

From left, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Rachel L. Levine, Tribal Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe and Great Circle Recovery Operations Director Jennifer Worth met during Levine’s visit to the Tribe’s Great Circle Recovery medication assisted treatment clinic in Portland on Thursday, Jan. 18. Visiting Great Circle is part of Levine’s efforts to connect with Indian Country and learn more about the work Tribes are doing to combat substance use disorder.

By Danielle Harrison  
*Smoke Signals editor*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Rachel L. Levine visited the Tribe’s Great Circle Recovery medication assisted treatment clinic in Portland on Thursday, Jan. 18, as part of her efforts to connect with Indian Country and learn more about the work Tribes are doing to combat substance use disorder.

Originally, Levine was planning to visit the Grand Ronde campus as well as the Portland clinic, but a recent winter storm that blanketed the region curtailed the visit.

“It was a great honor to have Admiral Levine visit Great Circle Recovery in Portland to discuss the many great programs and services the Tribe has created to improve and support health and wellness,” Tribal Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe said.

Levine met with the Tribe specifically to learn about its health and wellness programs that address the opioid epidemic, social determinants of health, gender affirming care and other public health diseases that are affecting American Indians/Alaska Natives at rates higher than other populations.

“We toured the Great Circle Recovery building and discussed how our program there and in Salem is different than other opioid treatment programs, and also shared information about our new public health/vaccination clinic, shelter villages, community transitions

Program, Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center, Adult Foster Care, and tush lamatsin (good medicine) programming,” Rowe said.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy was in attendance for the visit, braving the wintry conditions to drive from her home in Dallas to Portland. There, she was joined by Great Circle Recovery Operations Director Jennifer Worth and Rowe.

“I was very pleased with the visit,” Kennedy said. “We talked about what was happening and the need for services. ... That was the nature of the visit. She (Levine) hasn’t been out to Indian Country a lot and wanted to acquaint herself with our services. I was very pleased we were recommended as a site to be toured and it was a great to share that the Tribe is working very hard to provide a full complement of services.”

Kennedy, who served as the first Tribal Health Director, said she is proud that the Tribe has been expanding its substance use disorder treatment services in recent years from traditional 12-step programs to include detox, residential treatment, outpatient treatment and prevention.

“We have all of those stages and will be opening the detox center later in 2024,” she said. “I was glad the admiral was there and Kelly did a wonderful job showing her the facilities.”

Levine was nominated by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2021. ■

## We want to hear from you!

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Comment Box is located at the entrance of the Health & Wellness Center, next to the drinking fountain. Share your experience, good or bad with us. ■

## Elder Center Newsletter

Providing activities for our Elders and Spouses!

### Upcoming Events

Craft Days: Feb. 1, 6, 8, 15, 20, and 29  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Art Therapy: Feb. 13

Baking Day: Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bake Sale: Feb. 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Valentines

Luncheon: Feb. 14

Shopping Trips: Feb. 7 and 21

Crab Feed: Feb. 27

Elder Day Trip: Feb. 28, leave 9 a.m.

Bingo: Feb. 15, 1 p.m.

#### Healthy Lifestyle Group

Join us every Monday at the Elder Center for a support group on healthy lifestyles. We talk about food, exercise and just support each other. No meetings on holidays.

#### Culture Activities

The Elder Center will be focusing on more craft classes being culturally based. We will also focus on more raffle prizes, etc being focused on supporting native artist and businesses.

#### Wills and trusts!

If you are in need of a will or trust done please contact the Elder center 503-879-2233.

We work with a local college and send your information to them. They will then reach out for comment!

### Tribal Vendors

The Elder Center is looking at hosting Tribal vendors each month. First vending opportunity will be Feb. 2 and 16. If you are interested please call 503-879-2233 to sign up. Vending will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Max of five vendors per event. Preference will be given to Elders.

## Food For Thought



“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention.”  
~Kahlil Gibran



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

## Love Rocks

#### PRIZES

Rock Painting

#### Lunch

& Punch

Saturday, Feb. 10  
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
At the Tribal Community Center

1 in 3 American teens are affected by Teen Dating Violence. Let’s come together to discuss the facts, and paint Love Rocks to promote awareness and healthy relationships within our community!



All are welcome; however, we ask that guardians use discretion with children under 10 years of age. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian for the duration of the event. Discussion topics include: Forms of Teen Dating Violence, Sex, Healthy Relationship Traits and available resources.  
\*\*While supplies last.



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?  
Do you have questions about diabetes?  
Do you need help managing your diabetes?  
If so...

Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002  
To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment