

Grant to fund supportive housing

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The Oregon Health Authority awarded Community Counseling Solutions a \$1.4 million grant on Wednesday, Aug. 3, to purchase a pair of homes in Grant County to provide supportive transitional housing for people with behavioral health issues.

Kimberly Lindsay, CCS chief executive officer, said the plan is to offer longer-term transitional housing to CCS clients, primarily those struggling with mental illness. The program's focus, she said, would be on families and veterans.

Lindsay said CCS has not yet selected the sites of the houses. However, she said the homes would likely have two to three bedrooms, depending on the price.

Lindsay said she wants to see the program come to fruition in Grant County and thinks CCS can do an excellent job delivering services.

However, she said, the location of the homes would make or break the



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle, File
Kimberly Lindsay, Community Counseling Solutions chief executive officer, speaks during a 2020 session of Grant County Court.

We are not talking about middle-income folks."

Lindsay said the homes need to be in a place that is accessible for families with children. There are many people who lack adequate transportation.

While it's not yet clear where the houses will be or how soon they will be available for use, Lindsay said the criteria for who will qualify for the housing are specific and straightforward. The housing is only for clients of CCS struggling with behavioral health issues. That could mean mental health, including depression, anxiety or other conditions. Addiction also falls under the umbrella, although Lindsay pointed out that the number of people coming in for addiction treatment has dropped significantly.

Lindsay said this means that a person not enrolled with CCS who is looking for a free place to live cannot randomly show up and be allowed to simply move in.

"(Supportive housing) is not going to be for anyone," she said.

"If you were homeless, you couldn't just say, well, 'I'd like to be living there.'"

Longer-term transitional housing

Lindsay said the plan moving forward is to offer low-cost transitional housing for up to a year. Tenants will be responsible for paying below-market rent and covering the cost of utilities each month.

She said CCS will hire a manager to oversee multiple transitional homes in Grant, Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam counties. The housing manager will put together the details of the program for the homes in the four counties, including the length of time people can stay at the houses.

Typically, Lindsay said, people live in transitional housing for a month. Unfortunately, she said, that short window does not allow someone to make meaningful changes and get on solid financial footing.

Allowing people to stay up to a year provides enough time to make

meaningful life changes, Lindsay said. Moreover, keeping the rent low allows tenants to save money for when it comes time to move out and live independently.

Lindsay said a fair number of the people eligible for the housing are parents of a child struggling with a mental health condition such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Lindsay said that most of the people CCS is seeing now have mental health issues. That said, it is safe to say that most people who would be accessing supportive housing will have mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety.

The supportive housing funding comes from a spending package north of \$500 million that state lawmakers set aside to improve behavioral health services.

Oregon has one of the highest rates of mental illness in the U.S. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey, Oregon has the fifth-highest unmet need for mental health treatment in the nation.



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin
Megan Leeann Teeter is handcuffed by law enforcement officers outside a Bend home after she surrendered during a standoff that lasted several hours Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022.

Woman arrested after Bend standoff

By JOE SIESS
The Bulletin

BEND — A woman who allegedly fired a handgun 15 times into a Bend home owned by a relative surrendered to law enforcement Wednesday morning, Aug. 3, after an hours-long standoff with heavily armed officers in front of a house on Chuckanut Drive in southwest Bend.

No one was injured in the shooting.

"We are definitely glad no one was injured. It was a super dangerous call, obviously, in a residential neighborhood, so we are very fortunate for that and fortunate that she was willing to surrender," said Bend Police Lt. Brian Beekman.

Megan Leeann Teeter, 26, of Bend, was arrested and faces charges that include the unlawful use of a weapon, reckless endangering and attempted murder, police said.

At about 3:19 a.m. Wednesday, law enforcement officers were called after shots were fired into a house at 2277 NE Scarlet Court, a residential area off Northeast 27th Street on the east side of Bend, Beekman said. Police said the home is owned by one of Teeter's relatives.

"We went out there, the sheriff's office went out there, there was evidence that a handgun was fired multiple times into this residence," Beekman said. "The residence was empty, fortunately, so nobody was hurt."

Based on available information and witness accounts, law enforcement officers were able to identify Teeter as a suspect and determine she was related to someone who lived at the Scarlet Court home, Beekman said.

Police said Teeter fired 15 rounds from a .380 handgun at the Scarlet Court home, then drove off in a Jeep before officers arrived. Several rounds struck the home and a vehicle parked there, police said.

By 6:30 a.m., detectives had tracked her down to 61140 Chuckanut Drive, Beekman said.

Beekman said around 35 law enforcement officers from the Bend Police Department, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, and Oregon State Police responded to the call and engaged in the standoff in front of the Chuckanut Drive residence.

By 7 a.m., law enforcement officers, including the Central Oregon Emergency Response Team, tried to get Teeter to come out of the house.

Beekman said Teeter surrendered to officers around 9:30 a.m. Soon afterward, officers recovered a handgun in the home.

"At this point our detectives have taken over the case," Beekman said. "They are trying to determine what her motivation was or what the issue was that started this whole thing at 3:30, so those are kind of unknowns at this point."

After surrendering, Teeter was taken to St. Charles Bend for evaluation.

Kristoffer Wright, who lives next door to the house on Chuckanut Drive with his wife and two children, saw several heavily armed law enforcement officers — many wearing tactical gear — armored vehicles, and drones flying overhead. Eventually, he saw a law enforcement officer on a megaphone attempting to negotiate with Teeter.

"It was obvious that this was a big thing, and it was escalating," Wright said.

At one point, Wright and his family were ordered by police to the other side of their property to avoid "crossfire," he said.

"That was verbiage that was immediately concerning," he said. "Then this was before I knew anything about what was going on, what the lady did, why they were even really there."

Bend may restrict homeless camps

By ANNA KAMINSKI
The Bulletin

BEND — Under a proposed change to Bend's city code, homeless campers would not be allowed near the Deschutes River, in residential areas or within several hundred feet of schools and parks, after lengthy discussions by the City Council Wednesday, Aug. 3.

Councilors agreed that banning camping in residential areas and near the river made sense as public safety was their main priority.

Councilors disagreed when it came to the size of the buffers around parks and schools, and if they should even have them.

Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Broadman was in favor of keeping campers away from schools.

Councilors Megan Perkins and Mo Mitchell felt that banning campers from schools perpetuated the notion that those experiencing homelessness are inherently dangerous.

No official decisions were made at the meeting. Councilors only meant to narrow the focus of what will be allowed in the proposed code.

"People do want to camp," said Mitchell. "If you have a choice, people are going to want to camp and not be in a shelter. In the code, there has to be some space where people can camp for the night."



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin, File
Tents line the sidewalk as people gather along Second Street in Bend in January.

Camping during the day and for long amounts of time, like several days in a row, would not be allowed under the new code.

Councilors also discussed a seasonal approach and modifying the times camping would be allowed based on available daylight.

The council also must consider enforcement. During the meeting, councilors questioned where the line of compliance ended and the line of punishment began.

Because the camping rules could be amended into city code, homeless campers could receive civil sanctions that are not criminal. Councilor Barb Campbell argued that civil sanctions are still a punishment.

"We've got to make sure it's actually workable," said Campbell. "These people exist in the world, and we have to have some idea of what we're thinking

about for enforcement officers."

The caveat with the proposed code, as determined by court cases out of Boise, Idaho, and Grants Pass, is that it cannot be enforced unless shelter space is available for campers who are being displaced. The court cases determined that criminalizing homelessness was cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment.

To ensure these proposed rules can be reasonably followed by campers, Assistant City Attorney Ian Leitheiser said they need to define what exactly camping and being homeless mean.

"The idea is that people should be cited for conduct, not status," said Leitheiser during the meeting. "If somebody is houseless, they don't have anywhere else to go. The only option they have to seek shelter is going to be in a public place."

Councilor Melanie Kebler clarified that the proposed code only pertains to camping outside of vehicles. The council intends to develop a separate code for in-vehicle camping.

Councilors decided last month to speed up the process of developing a camping code so they could vote on adopting the code as early as October. City Manager Eric King said that a question-and-answer session for community members and city councilors could be available in the near future.

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Hello Grant County,
Thank you Members!

Thank you to all of our wonderful members who have renewed their membership! We appreciate each and every one of you. Remember, all Chamber members have a page on the Chamber's website - www.gcogonline.com. Check them out! Please check your page and let us know if you want to change anything.

It's Fair Time!

Wow! It's Fair time! The Fair Rodeo was a BIG success, and Mindy and Dusty have been working hard all year to bring us the best Fair ever. Let's show them our support for all their hard work. If you see either of them down at the Fair, let them know you appreciate the great job they have done!

Cycle Oregon Jobs Still Available

We still have some jobs available for local groups to earn some money for their organizations, sports teams and clubs. Please let me know if you are interested and I will be happy to show what we have.

Cycle Oregon will be here September 11-17.

Our volunteers are the best!

Last month, I inadvertently left Larry Christensen out when I was naming and thanking our volunteers. Larry has been volunteering at the Chamber since August, 2015 and he does a fantastic job for us! Thank you Larry! We appreciate you!

Chamber Board to Meet

Our next Chamber Business meeting will be Thursday, August 18th. The board meets at 10:30 AM at the Chamber Office.

Enjoy the 113th Annual Grant County Fair!
Go see Eddy Montgomery and Jessie Leigh in concert!

Tammy Bremner
Executive Director

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