

For Immediate Release

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New Narrative Launches New Motel Support Facility for Houseless in Multnomah County

- **New Narrative, an integrative mental health organization in Oregon, opens a new motel support program for houseless individuals in East Portland.**
- **The organization collaborates with government agencies and the private sector to meet the growing mental health care and housing needs in Oregon with a full continuum of mental health services.**

Tigard, May 17, 2022: New Narrative, an organization known for its exemplary services and integrative approaches to mental health care in Oregon, announced the opening of a new motel support program for houseless individuals in East Portland, off 82nd. This 40-bed motel will be serving individuals who would otherwise be houseless or were recently houseless and also experience significant mental health concerns. This program will offer housing and 24-hour onsite access to qualified mental health support for treatment, community engagement, peer support and housing navigation.

This project has been developed by the Multnomah County Commissioners as a part of their effort to reduce houseless-ness. New Narrative was specifically approached as the implementing partner for this project due to its success of other similar programs and partnerships in the area.

Applauding the project, Julie Ibrahim, CEO of New Narrative said, “This project would not be possible without the valuable partnership of the Multnomah County Commissioners in bringing, ‘The Cultivating Community Motel’ project to fruition. This is a robust addition to the 37 facilities we’re already operating across Portland metro, including two other Multnomah County motels that work towards reducing houselessness amongst Portland’s most vulnerable residents. The program’s goal is to reduce houselessness, emergency response, and the burden on our hospital system by providing individuals living with mental health concerns a safe place to live with onsite mental wellness supports, with the ultimate goal of individuals gaining the resources, stabilization, and skills to move to permanent housing”.

Sharing her sentiments on the project, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury remarked, “The motel wraparound program model is designed to respond to the specific needs of people whose mental health challenges have made it difficult to find safety and stability in traditional shelter settings.” She added, “We know that the best way to serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness is by meeting them where they are. With thoughtful programs like this, we are fulfilling our commitment to use Supportive Housing Services funds to transform our systems of care. Multnomah County looks forward to extending this successful model of comprehensive and coordinated services to more of our neighbors who need the stabilizing effects of shelter the most, and to keep them on the path to housing that will actually end their homelessness. The experience and expertise that New Narrative brings to this partnership will be critical.”

New Narrative is a non-profit agency established in 1977 which provides mental health treatment services, housing programs, and peer support and mentoring services to adults with persistent and severe mental illness. Over 52% of its funding comes from Medicaid and the remainder through private philanthropic sources.

Visit: www.NewNarrativepdx.org