



Date: September 23, 2008

General questions: Ken Palke, 503-947-5286

Technical questions: Karen Wheeler, 503-945-6191; Therese Hutchinson, 503-945-5765

Portland's Miracles Club hosts seminar on addiction recovery

A panel of state legislators and experts will discuss the economic benefits of substance abuse recovery programs during the African American and Latino/Latina Recovery Forum Sept. 30 at the Miracles Club in Portland.

It is estimated that untreated drug and alcohol abuse costs the state \$5.93 billion a year, including \$813 million for health care, \$4.15 billion in lost earnings, and \$967 million for law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare and other expenditures.

The panelists will discuss how recovery programs are helping to improve lives and to reduce the financial burden on Oregonians. Panelists are: State Sen. Margaret Carter (D-Portland), State Rep. Chip Shields (D-Portland), Karen Wheeler, Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) addictions policy administrator, and four members of Portland's recovery community.

The Recovery Month forum, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is sponsored by the Miracles Club, Oregon Department of Human Services Addictions and Mental Health Division, Addiction Counselor Certification Board of Oregon, and Oregon Prevention Education and Recovery Association. The club is located at 4069 NE Martin Luther King Blvd.

Other speakers are:

- Robert Whelan, senior project manager for EcoNorthwest, co-author of "The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Oregon in 2006";
- Craig Prins, executive director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission;
- Armando Vallejo, Latino/Latina community representative; and

- Herman Bryant, the Miracles Club.

For information or to register for the free event, contact Sandi Lacher, 503-945-7814; or e-mail: Sandra.lacher@state.or.us. Attendance is limited to the first 125 who register.

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