

News Release

Date: June 2, 2022

Contact:

Primary media contact: Leticia Longoria-Navarro, (503) 754- 8401,
337680@email4pr.com

ODHS media contact: Fiona Bai, Fiona.bai@dhsosha.state.or.us

The Pathfinder Network, Oregon Department of Human Services, and Jackson County Community Justice announce the opening of The Collaborative, Center for Transformation

(Medford, Ore.) - The Collaborative, a center for transformation and collaboration in service of women and gender diverse individuals, opened its doors in Jackson County this past month. This is a combined effort between the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Child Welfare Division and Self Sufficiency Programs, Jackson County Community Justice (JCCJ) and The Pathfinder Network (TPN). These three agencies will now be housed together with a mission to cultivate a space in service of participants, so they and their children and families can thrive in our community.

"It is inspiring to see the missions of all three agencies coming together to cultivate such a needed, intentional and innovative impact in this community. I am so proud of The Collaborative," says Leticia Longoria-Navarro, Executive Director of the Pathfinder Network.

The Collaborative's vision is to co-create holistic pathways to integrated and responsive services and supports. Efforts will focus on:

- Mitigating the impacts of trauma
- Decreasing social isolation for impacted community members
- Preventing misuse of substances
- Employing community-wide approaches to reducing harm associated with behavioral health issues
- Ensuring access and coordination of services

The Collaborative focused on redesigning its space to foster an inclusive and welcoming space, where individuals feel comfortable seeking support for themselves and their families. The voices of individuals who would use the space

led the redesign. Former and current participants describe the environment as welcoming, calm, comfortable, safe and warm.

"The Collaborative is a great example of how we are putting the [Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation](#) into action by creating a space where children and families are supported holistically across systems," says Kimberlee Whitney, Child Welfare District Manager. "Thank you to our partners within ODHS, Pathfinder Network and Jackson County for making this effort come to life."

Team members from all three agencies will support participants in their engagement with parole and probation and ODHS through a trauma, gender and culturally responsive approach and provide peer support in a space intentionally created to provide the best services and support. Individuals are welcomed in by team members as into the "living room" and are connected to staff in the building to assess their needs, connect them to resources, make referrals to other community resources, sign them up for group services and events at the center and provide on the spot peer support.

The Collaborative is a one stop shop for services that are working toward eliminating the barriers of access to services by working to stabilize families during a stressful time. Involvement within systems increases the likelihood of negative outcomes and the costs for systems and communities. The goal is to see better outcomes for individuals and families by providing evidence-based support and services.

"By putting people first, the outcomes will follow. We know that relationships, connections and focusing on strengths lead to people being successful," says Eric Guyer, Director of Jackson County Community Justice. "This in turn results in increased public safety for the community. To do this work in partnership with professionals with lived experience is truly innovative, effective and an honor to be a part of."

This effort would not have been possible without the integral partnership and support of AllCare Health, Jackson Care Connect and the Oregon Community Foundation, Creativity and Innovation Fund. Thank you to our partners.



Members of The Collaborative team planning for the launch of the new center.



The living room is where participants visiting The Collaborative enter the building and connect to services and support.

###

About the ODHS Child Welfare Division

The Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division is committed to transforming itself to better support the individual needs of families and to best serve Oregon's children and young people. [Read the Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation to learn more.](#)

Report child abuse to the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline by calling 1-855-503-SAFE (7233). This toll-free number allows you to report abuse of any child or adult to the Oregon Department of Human Services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

About Jackson County Community Justice

Jackson County Community Justice's mission is to enhance community safety by creating lasting behavior change in individuals on community supervision. The Parole and Probation Officers in the Gender-Responsive Unit utilize evidence-based practices and programs designed to change criminal beliefs and behaviors using a relational, strengths-based, and trauma-informed approach. The Probation Officer works collaboratively with the individual to set goals, make treatment referrals, complete assessments and engage in skill building. Learn more on the [Jackson County website](#).

About The Pathfinder Network

The Pathfinder Network provides justice system-impacted individuals and families the tools and support they need to be safe and thrive in our communities. We envision communities that welcome all people, provide second chances, and create pathways to change. We believe all people have the capacity to change. We honor the dignity and worth of every individual, engage our clients and employees with compassion, and bring excellence to all we do. Learn more on the [Pathfinder Network website](#).