

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

This is a nonbinding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, Inc., an Oregon nonprofit corporation (“Agency”) and the City of Salem, an Oregon municipal corporation (City).

### **Recitals**

1. Agency was established to remove the obstacles and barriers to eliminate poverty to allow individuals and families experiencing poverty to regain self-sufficiency;
2. Agency works primarily in Marion and Polk counties with partner agencies, local leader, governments and other organizations to identify community needs, gather resources and direct those resources where they will have the greatest impact, including services for homeless families and individuals.
3. The Salem area is experiencing significant negative effects from alcohol abuse among the homeless population in Salem.
4. Severely intoxicated homeless individuals are at substantial risk of injury, short and long term health issues, and may pose a threat to themselves or others.
5. Severely intoxicated homeless individuals often have no opportunity for immediate assistance during acute periods of intoxication.
6. Currently, individuals are taken to Marion County Corrections (the “jail”) in situations where a significant crime is alleged to have occurred, or to the hospital emergency room.
7. Both the jail and the emergency room are costly options, and are often inappropriate for the circumstances.
8. In many circumstances a sobering center, may be a good option to address individuals’ acute health needs. A sobering center is a clean, safe and supervised space to become sober, and to provide access to long term treatment, such as a detoxification, out-patient, or residential recovery facility or other needed services, to address the underlying causes of alcohol addiction.
9. The Salem City Council has adopted a sobering center as one of the goals of its 2018 Policy Agenda, and is considering appropriating funding to assist in the operation of a sobering center as part of the City’s fiscal year 2018 budget.
9. City and Agency, along with many other community partners, have worked together to explore the feasibility of providing for a sobering center to serve the Salem area.
10. City and Agency further desire to memorialize their understanding regarding their mutual desire and collaboration to provide for a sobering center in Salem.

### **Agreement**

1. The parties envision an 8-10 bed sobering center operating 24-hours a day, seven days each week to serve individuals suffering from acute alcohol abuse, who do not need emergency medical attention.
2. Agency has identified a potential location owned by the Agency for the sobering facility, located at 615 Commercial Street NE, at its ARCHES facility.

3. The parties have identified Bridgeway Recovery Services as a potential operator of the sobering facility, and Bridgeway has indicated an interest in serving as the operator, and would be the applicant for grant opportunities to operate the facility.
4. The parties understand that no single entity is able to fund, operate and manage a sobering center to serve the community, and therefore, it will be necessary to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders to meet the parties' objectives.
5. The parties have also worked in collaboration with Marion County and Salem Health in the planning and development of a sobering center serving the Salem Area, as both entities through their operation of the jail and hospital, respectively, feel a significant financial and operational impact from assisting individuals suffering from acute intoxication.
6. Community stakeholders, including Salem Health and Marion County have indicated they will be able to provide some financial and in-kind support for the construction and operation of the sobering center.
7. The parties desire that the sobering center will be constructed and operational as soon as practical.
8. This MOU shall be effective on the date last signed by the parties.

Signatures

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Steven D. Powers  
Salem City Manager

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Date

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Date

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Mid-Valley Community Action Agency