



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor.

District 3 Marion/Polk/Yamhill Counties

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Department of Human Services

April 10, 2024

Dear DJ and Church @ the Park Leadership,

We are excited to add our support to your efforts to develop micro-communities in Monmouth and Dallas to support individuals and families. Our existing partnerships across Marion and Polk Counties, in support of both our Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency work, have led to greater collaborations across our organizations, enhanced skills for our staff, and most importantly, more person-centered and trauma-informed outcomes for the individuals and families we serve at ODHS.

In Polk county, we often see families impacted by the inability to secure safe, stable and affordable housing. This impacts their ability to make use of the ODHS supports available to them, their ability to maintain employment, and their ability to meet their families needs.

For our Child Welfare involved families, we have seen parents who are housing insecure become displaced in order to get to some type of safe and secure housing. In some cases, when housing in Salem was not available, their only option was much further away. The unintended consequence of this is disruption in current services for medical and mental health for the parents along with connections to their children, their families and other natural supports. By supporting C@P in expanding their housing services to Polk our families can stay connected to their service array, their culture and their community supports.

Child Welfare and SSP work closely with C@P in Marion County, with cross-training of staff, on-site SSP service delivery at the shelters, and close collaboration to support the needs of families with complex challenges. We commit to continuing and growing this collaboration as C@P grows in Polk County.

Rural communities bring a lot of challenges to families and individuals who are impacted by poverty. ODHS also sees the strengths that these smaller communities bring in terms of support and care for it's own residents. The creation of these micro-shelters allows individuals and families to stay within their own communities, to maintain their connections and to contribute to the overall well-being of the community that they call home.

Please let us know if there are any additional ways we can support this project. ODHS District 3 stands ready to assist.

Thank you,

Cydney Nestor, MA
ODHS District Manager – District 3 – Marion/Polk/Yamhill

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