IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL

SITTING FOR THE TRANSACTION OF COUNTY BUSINESS

In the Matter of a Resolution Supporting a Recovery-Oriented System of Care in Responding To the Addiction, Mental Health and Homelessness Crises	))))	RESOLUTION 23-05-11-1

WHEREAS, Yamhill County recognizes that homelessness is often the result of drug abuse, addiction, crime, and untreated mental health issues and that homeless encampments present problems that threaten the safety and well-being of both the homeless and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, Yamhill County believes in the dignity and worth of its residents, and the communal good that is achieved when residents are on a path toward the realization of their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Yamhill County acknowledges that a significant and consequential portion of those struggling with homelessness in our county, the State of Oregon and throughout North America also contend with the complex diseases of mental illness and or addiction, whether a precursor to or a result of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General specifically describes addiction as a disease that results in reduced brain function, that inhibits an individual's ability to make decisions and regulate his or her actions, emotions, and impulses, and furthermore, that changes in the brain persist long after substance use stops and recognizes that addiction to alcohol or drugs is a chronic disease that has the potential for recurrence and recovery; and

WHEREAS, Yamhill County recognizes that housing alone cannot cure mental illness or addiction, and the nature of addiction and serious mental illness can make sufferers unable to recognize their own illnesses or seek help willingly and benefit from a well-coordinated continuum of care to help them get the supports they need; and

WHEREAS, Yamhill County agrees that drug usage in public spaces creates an environment that is incompatible with the need for clean and vibrant communities, and makes recovery from addiction more difficult; and

WHEREAS, Yamhill County believes that harm reduction services, when not antithetical to a recovery-oriented system of care, can be effective in saving lives. Moreover, they must exist within a full continuum of compassionate care that includes prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery for those suffering from addiction; and

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WHEREAS, Yamhill County identifies other contributing factors to homelessness, including domestic violence, experience in the child welfare system, economic and health crises, and physical and mental health conditions and is identifying strategies to address these factors; and

WHEREAS, Yamhill County believes that all people have a right to clean and vibrant public spaces, as well as safe emergency and transitional shelter when needed;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners recommends as follows:

That all efforts to address homelessness in which the County and its employees engage must be concentrated on helping all residents participate in realizing their full human potential, by advocating for wrap-around-service shelter options, psychiatric, behavioral health and addiction care for all who need it, and by protecting public spaces for the use of the entire community.

DONE at McMinnville, Oregon on May 11, 2023.

YAMHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Chair LINDSAY BERSCHAUER

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Commissioner KIT JOHNSTON

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Commissioner MARY STARRETT