



# NWRRRC Community Newsletter 03-28-2025

## Director's Message

Brian Martinek - Director

Greetings,

In September of this year, I will have been the Executive Director at NWRRRC for fifteen years. Although, I honestly love coming to work every day, and engaging with our amazing NWRRRC team, it is time for a change. We are preparing for that transition of leadership with a recruitment for the Executive Director position that closed last week. We had well over one hundred qualified people from all over the country apply. The Board of Directors recruitment committee will narrow the top candidates down this week, and we will start interviews next week. I am hopeful that we will have someone identified, vetted, and hired by May of this year. Ideally, we can introduce the new Director to you all at the next Advisory Board meeting that we hope to have in person in May. More to come on that.

We are very busy with other projects and hard to believe that it is already almost April. One of the projects is expanding our capacity for housing more residents. We are in the early planning phase for building a new wing on site that will add between 35-50 additional beds. We are partnering with the Oregon Health Authority to provide them with an additional 20 beds for the Aid and Assist program in the new building. We do not have finalized timeline yet but hope to break ground by the end of this year.

I hope you have a great spring, and we look forward to meeting with you in May. Peace be with you always,

Brian Martinek

## NWRRRC Staffing

Jessica Maisel – HR Manager

NWRRRC's impact on the community is profound and lasting, supporting countless individuals in rebuilding their lives. Our team makes a meaningful difference every day, and we invite you to explore our career opportunities and join an organization that is making positive change.

Now hiring:

- Resident Re-Entry Specialist (Security)
- Resident Support Specialist (Aid and Assist/DCJ)

Job descriptions and a link to apply can be found on our website [www.nw-rrc.org](http://www.nw-rrc.org) under the careers tab.

## Welcome to NWRRRC

Please join us in welcoming Kim Cunningham, our new Training Coordinator!

Kim has a Master's degree in Learning Experience Design and Educational Technologies and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration.

For the past 15 years, she has owned and operated a training company specializing in medical and fire training, including a contract with the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy.

With over 10 years of experience as a firefighter and 15 years as a CPR Instructor, she teaches for both the Camas School District and the Camas Community Education Center. Her passion for training is evident in her commitment to ensuring people are prepared for any situation, and she looks forward to bringing that approach to NWRRRC.





## Case Management Corner

Ben Percival – Case Management Supervisor

We continue to see a rise in cases from Idaho, Montana and all over Oregon due to the lack of space in other Re-Entry Centers in the region. This has given us the opportunity to develop relationships with US Probation in those areas and learn about non-local resources that our residents can utilize. The need for structured housing for justice-involved individuals has never been higher and we expect to only see that need increase with further implementation of the First Step Act.

We are happy to be part of a team that helps people transition from incarceration to freedom, addressing their individualized needs with our growing list of community resources. Our goal is to continue to develop connections by fostering stronger relationships with our existing community partners as well as discover new, unique services to help connect to our hard-to-reach residents. We are thankful for being a part of a community that cares so much for our returning citizens.

## Resident Health Services

Julie Olin – Health Services Coordinator

Things are busy, as usual, in the Health Services Department. Our team of two are consistently working towards keeping our residents physically healthy and maintaining a balance between physical health and mental health and what that may look like for each individual resident. Navigating this type of care can sometimes be challenging for our residents. Through experience knowledge is gained. Our hope is that the knowledge they gain, as a resident here at NWRRC, will help them be successful in the future. We appreciate the support and care that our residents receive from you, our health and medical service-related partners and community members.

Kaeli Rogers came on board in August of 2024 as the new Health Services Technician. She brought with her work experience and history working with individuals in a Mental Health Group Home. She also has experience with medications and navigating this piece of our program and has taken it on whole-heartedly. We are so grateful to have her here!



## Resident Employment

Michael Garcia-Social Services Supervisor

Our Resource Department is now a team of three! I'm excited to introduce Resource Specialist Grace Allen. Grace's primary focus areas are to assist and offer support to residents during pre-employment preparation, GED student recruitment and data entry, and the complicated and onerous task of housing systems navigation within the counties of Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska. Grace's individualized and collaborative program planning with residents and their accumulated successes are too many to count. She is an incredible asset to the NWRRC team.

We would like to introduce two amazing programs that center core-values around trauma and recovery. Folks in the struggle with substance use disorders, those at the threshold of recovery, and those who have achieved an appreciative relationship with sobriety are a diverse population. With that, recovery curriculums, networks, treatments etc. must present with options to meet the needs of all people exactly how they show up.

Grace and I had an amazing experience meeting the Co-Founders of the Recovery Café Roseway, Joan and Nancy, at their location in NE Portland. Recovery Café is a "healing community committed to serving people who have experienced trauma and the results of trauma: homelessness, addiction, mental health challenges, incarceration, and loneliness". Their core belief is that long-term recovery requires long term support and connection. "Recovery Café provides structure through loving accountability and the opportunity to develop healthy relationships." The Recovery Café is a membership program at no financial cost and without timeline limitations. The member's dedication is to attend a weekly facilitated Recovery Circle, participate as a volunteer in the space as able, and be drug/alcohol free while in the space. Learn more about this amazing program and services offered at [www.recoverycafenetwork.org](http://www.recoverycafenetwork.org)

NWRRC Resource Department staff, Aid & Assist Case Managers, and the Federal Case Managers met with the Raphael House Domestic Violence Recovery Mentors (DVRM) Team. The DVRM Team is a "survivor-led, peer support program specializing in the intersection of domestic violence and addiction recovery. It is the first of its kind in Oregon." The four recovery mentors offer lived experience in both recovery and as survivors themselves and are uniquely able to provide participants with a wide range of support as they transition from violence into safety." So many NWRRC residents share a similar history that involves abuse in the home at some point in their lives, primarily as children and adolescents. Adverse childhood experiences can manifest into long-term health problems to include substance use disorders and mental health symptoms. Folks can also lose faith in systems that are developed to help provide validation, safety and follow-through. The DVRM Team's voices regarding the complex components of intimate partner violence is relevant and necessary as a healing and empowerment option for many of our residents. We are grateful for the collaboration and partnership.