



Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners

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March 20, 2023

Dana Schultz, PSH Program Manager
Oregon Housing and Community Services
725 Summer St. NE B
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare and Edlen & Co's Response to Oregon Housing and Community Service's Notice of Funding Availability for Permanent Supportive Housing

Dear Ms. Schultz,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners are in support of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare ("CBH") and Edlen & Co.'s Permanent Supportive Housing project on Marine Drive in Astoria Oregon. Clatsop County has the highest per capita rate of unsheltered homeless of any county in the state, almost six times the state average. There is a significant need for the type of permanent supporting housing that CBH is proposing. Many individuals will not be successful in staying out of homelessness if they do not have onsite support to ensure that residents are doing well and getting their needs met on a daily basis.

Open Door has operated, as a program of CBH, for over twenty years. Siting the Open Door program with the permanent supported housing will increase the residents sense of support and connectedness. Program staff will actively endeavor to increase employment rates, social connectedness, cooking skills and other activities that can improve overall well-being.

The project site location is amenity rich with multiple parks, the public library and downtown Astoria within walking distance. In addition to the site's walkability, it is well connected to various forms of public transit.

Clatsop County looks forward to working with CBH as the project progresses and coordinating efforts to better our county.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kujala".

Mark Kujala
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners