



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: December 4, 2024

Order Date: December 18, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Community Justice and Rehabilitation Services

PRESENTED BY: Greg Rikhoff, Community Justice and Rehabilitation Director
Patti Robb, Youth Services Manager

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING A LEASE CONTRACT BETWEEN LANE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES AND NEXUS FAMILY HEALING AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO SIGN A LEASE CONTRACT BETWEEN LANE COUNTY AND NEXUS FAMILY HEALING, AND A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, NEXUS FAMILY HEALING, AND LANE COUNTY.

I. MOTION

In the matter of approving a lease agreement between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing and delegating authority to the county administrator or their designee to sign a lease contract between Lane County and Nexus Family Healing, and a tripartite agreement between Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing, and Lane County.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The board is being asked to approve a lease agreement between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing, and a tripartite agreement between Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing, and Lane County to allow Nexus Family Healing to provide a stand-alone Secure Inpatient Program (SIP) in Pod 1 of the Lane County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) (which is currently vacant). The services will be for youth ages 12-18 who are juvenile court-involved and in need of mental health restorative services, in need of assessment for their ability to stand trial, and/or who have high-acuity mental health and behavioral health needs and require a secure setting. The initial lease agreement will be for a period of 5 years in the amount of \$15,000 per month, with an option to renew the lease every two years, subject to new market lease rate analysis, thereafter.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

In 2019, the Board considered a proposal to lease Pod 1 of the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) for a non-secure 24/7 shelter program for local youth experiencing homelessness, crisis, and/or family discord. The proposal did not move forward due to concerns about utilizing Pod 1 for non-secure purposes, and the close proximity of a youth shelter and a juvenile detention center. Pod 1 has been primarily vacant since its completed construction in 1999, with the exception of its periodic use for detained youth for covid precautions between 2020 and 2021.

B. Policy Issues

Nexus Family Healing is a national mental and behavioral health nonprofit organization based in Minnesota. For over 50 years, their network of agencies has used innovative, personalized approaches to heal trauma, break cycles of harm, and reshape futures. Nexus has 12 agencies in five states: Minnesota, North Dakota, Illinois, Maryland and Oregon. They provide community mental health services, foster care and adoption services, and residential treatment to help thousands of children, families, and adults each year struggling with emotional, behavioral, and mental health issues. They are especially passionate about bringing hope to the most challenging situations.

Nexus is committed to partnering with communities to identify gaps in the mental health system for youth and families. When their expertise lends itself to filling those gaps, they lean into those opportunities enthusiastically. In the summer of 2023, Nexus Family Healing connected with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) around their need for a Secure Inpatient (SIP) program for youth who are involved in the court system but need a secure placement to address their mental health, developmental and behavioral needs while they receive Restorative Services and their ability to stand trial is assessed. Nexus Family Healing opened Walden Crossing Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) in March of 2023 in Portland. This program is currently in full operation and is meeting the needs of those youth in a 6-bed secure facility.

OHA and Nexus have continued to discuss the gaps in the system for youth. They estimate they need about 60 more beds to meet the current need for youth in the state. Recently, Oregon determined that some of the federal funds from ARPA could be used to expand the residential capacity for high end youth, but all grant contracting for the funds must be fully executed by the end of 2023. This created a short window in which Nexus could develop a plan to use the funding to create secure residential. Nexus toured the vacant Lane County Juvenile Justice Center

(JJC) space a few months ago. This allowed a plan to be developed in short order.

Nexus' intention is to use Pod 1 of the Lane County JJC (containing two units with a total of 32 beds) for two separate programs, 6 youth in each unit, for a total of 12 beds. Proposed renovations will not reduce the bed capacity or compromise the intended use of Pod 1, but rather focus on improving the therapeutic quality of the space and utilizing the space for a smaller population of youth with high needs. One unit will be for the same population as Walden Crossing. The other may be for OHA referrals of youth with high acuity mental health and behavioral needs. This will significantly increase the program's capacity to serve these youth and provide a central location for youth access statewide and continue to serve a younger population at their current location. At this juncture, Nexus is focusing on the immediate need for a lease with Lane County Youth Services for Pod 1 of the JJC. Timelines for the renovation and program opening will be identified by Nexus Family Healing with Lane County. The funds must be fully spent by the end of 2026.

C. Board Goals

This action meets the Board's strategic plan priority 1: Safe and Healthy County.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The approval of a lease agreement between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing to allow Nexus Family Healing to provide a stand-alone Secure Inpatient Program (SIP) in Pod 1 of the Lane County Juvenile Justice Center comes with an opportunity to generate \$180,000 annually (\$15,000 monthly) in new lease revenue. Additional opportunities for revenue may come from contracts between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing for administrative office space, food services for staff, youth, and families, and vocational programming for youth.

E. Health Implications

Lane County Youth Services provides services for youth ages 10-18 that have been referred for law violations or crimes. In 2023, 481 youth were referred to Lane County Youth Services. Of those youth, 204 youth were admitted to Lane County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Detention with standard medical care and mental health crisis support. The Nexus Family Healing SIP will provide a new potential local resource for Lane County youth meeting criteria for this program adjacent to its Detention setting. Nexus Family Healing's lease of Pod 1 of the JJC will significantly increase its capacity to serve a high acuity mental health and behavioral population and provide a central location for youth to access secure inpatient program (SIP) services locally and statewide.

Exposure to crime can lead to low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization which is linked to a high risk of substance abuse, delinquency, and violence. Crime and violence can result in injury or property loss and provide fear

or stress. Youth use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs makes youth more at risk for addiction and related health outcomes. Youth Services vision includes lowering risk by increasing opportunity. Providing justice-involved youth with local and secure opportunities for secure inpatient mental health and behavioral health treatment builds resilience and protective factors for youth and improves community safety.

F. Analysis

In October 2024, Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing met with County Administration Operations (Facilities and Financial Services), Health and Human Services, and Technology Services for a collaborative discussion about the proposed lease of Pod 1 of the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) by Nexus Family Healing. The team was satisfied that the proposal complies funding requirements and timelines and meets licensing requirements by Oregon Health Authority for use of the space. The team had general consensus that the proposal and planned improvements funded by Nexus Family Healing align with the intended use and business needs of the space and supports the critical mission of Lane County Youth Services and campus. Concerns around anticipated capital improvement needs of the JJC building will continue to be monitored by Facilities and supported by additional revenue generated by the lease and contract opportunities.

The services, planning, and treatment Nexus Family Healing provides to the youth it serves is highly individualized and based on the needs and abilities of each youth. Nexus Family Healing staff will also be working with families to create strong care and planning upon discharge of youth from its program and their return to their communities statewide.

G. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve a lease agreement between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing delegating authority to the county administrator or their designee to sign a lease contract between Lane County and Nexus Family Healing, and a tripartite agreement between Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing, and Lane County.
2. Do not approve the lease contract and tripartite agreement between Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing, and Lane County.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Approve a lease agreement between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing and delegating authority to the county administrator or their designee to sign a lease contract between Lane County and Nexus Family Healing, and a tripartite agreement between Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing, and Lane County.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

If approved, Lane County will enter into a lease contract with Nexus Family Healing and

tripartite agreement between Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing, and Lane County by December 31, 2024. The initial lease agreement will be for a period of 5 years in the amount of \$15,000 per month, with an option to renew the lease every two years, subject to new market lease rate analysis, thereafter. Timelines for the renovation and program opening will be identified by Nexus Family Healing with Lane County. The construction and program implementation will be completed by December 31, 2026.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

None

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order



Restoring Hope. Reshaping Futures.



Our Vision

Healing the past.

Breaking the cycle.

Changing the future.



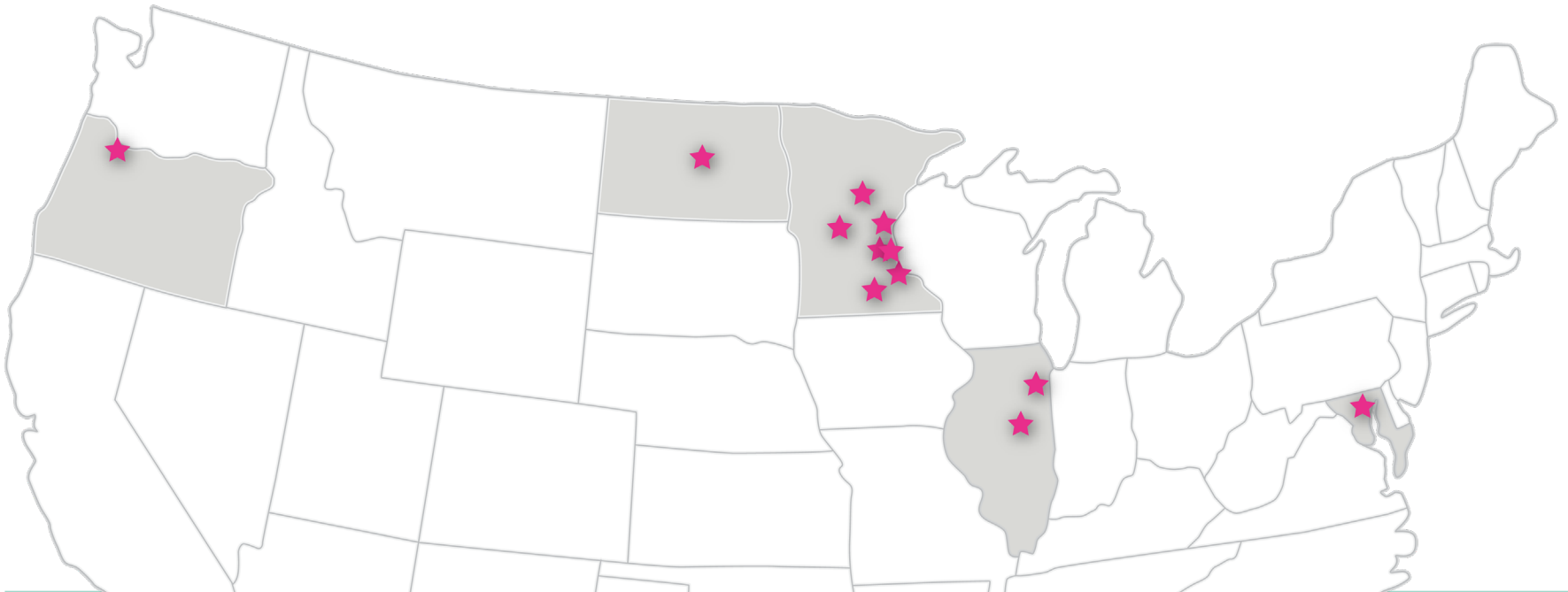
Our Mission

Changing the course of a child's life by stabilizing families and strengthening mental health.



Our Organization

- National nonprofit with services located across 5 states
- Home base in Plymouth, MN



We Provide...

+ COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Telehealth and in-person appointments, as well as in-home, in-school, and other on-site therapy services.

+ RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Intensive support and care via short- and long-term treatment programs.

+ FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION

Foster care and adoption services to provide loving, stable homes.



Nexus Walden Crossing

- Portland, Oregon PRTF
- Secure Inpatient
- Exclusively for preadjudicated youth requiring SIP placement

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO:

In the Matter of Approving a Lease Contract Between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing and Delegating Authority to the County Administrator or Their Designee to Sign a Lease Contract Between Lane County and Nexus Family Healing, and a Tripartite Agreement with Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing and Lane County.

WHEREAS, Community Justice and Rehabilitation Services Youth Services division is committed to providing to justice-involved youth opportunities for secure inpatient mental health and behavioral health treatment; and

WHEREAS, Nexus Family Healing's mission to provide mental health services and treatment to justice-involved youth and families intersects with Lane County Youth Services mission and values; and

WHEREAS, Nexus Family Healing, a national nonprofit organization, has proposed to invest funding to renovate and lease the Juvenile Justice Center's Pod 1 for the purpose of creating a stand-alone Secure Inpatient Program ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. A lease agreement is approved between Lane County Youth Services and Nexus Family Healing.
2. Authority is delegated to the County Administrator or their designee to sign a lease contract between lane County and Nexus Family Healing, and a tripartite agreement with Oregon Health Authority, Nexus Family Healing and Lane County.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Laurie Trieger, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners