

Cascadia Housing Provides Solution for Multiple Community Challenges

Three of the most pressing issues for our area are homelessness, the mentally ill being unnecessarily housed in jails, and the need to move people out of the state hospital.

More than 75 people, including state, county, and city officials, joined with [Cascadia](#) President and CEO Leslie Ford today in celebrating the opening of a 48-unit site at NE Prescott and 57th Ave. that will serve people facing those challenges.

Residents, who have already begun moving in to Prescott Terrace, are chronically homeless, transitioning from the criminal justice system, or coming from the overcrowded, antiquated state hospital.

Ford noted the shortage of affordable housing, particularly for those with mental health or addictions, and how it "requires creativity and collaboration to make a project like this work."

That was a theme that was echoed by City Commissioner Erik Sten, County Chair Diane Linn, County Commissioner Serena Cruz, and Betty Dominguez from the state's Housing and Community Services.

The speakers all singled out for praise Donita Diamata, Cascadia's Director of Consumer Services, who spoke of her own experiences with mental illness and the importance of safe housing as an early step on the road to recovery. Also praised was Neal Beroz, Cascadia's Vice President for Housing, who has put together the complex arrangements to make projects like Prescott Terrace possible.

The advantage of such a project, aside from meeting an obvious civic need, is the ability to draw revenue from multiple funding sources. This allows economies of scale, such as two property managers on site, as well as eliminating redundancies of service. Cascadia has a broad range of mental health and addiction services available at sites in Multnomah, Washington, and Marion counties.
