



NEWS RELEASE

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Norm Monroe Named Cascadia VP Cultural and Community Development

Norm Monroe, with more than 32 years government and non-profit experience, was named as Vice President of Cultural Relations and Community Development for Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare. Norm, who has served on Cascadia's board as well as working for more than 20 years in the Multnomah County Chair's office, begins his new position January 30th, 2006.

"As the largest behavioral healthcare agency in the area, our ability to have a diverse, culturally sensitive workforce is vital to providing effective services for some of our most challenged citizens," he said, adding that he also plans to focus on furthering collaborative agreements within the community.

The first African-American basketball player at Oregon State University, Norm also was fourth-ranked internationally in the 400 meter run. Graduating with a degree in social sciences, he went on to earn a Masters in Social Work from Portland State University, and then studied toward a PhD in Urban Studies. In 1993, he was honored as an alumni fellow by OSU.

He began his career as a marriage and family counselor, but his desire to address bigger systemic issues led him to government. He served four years in the Mayor's office, focusing on systemic law enforcement issues. In the Chair's office for two previous administrations, he assisted low income communities in developing goals and programs to improve livability and public safety.

Norm retired and joined the board of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare. After a year there, he was asked by Cascadia CEO Leslie Ford to help Cascadia in a number of structural and policy issues. Norm, who also serves on the board of the House of Umoja, Home for Good (a re-entry agency for ex-offenders), and a low income advocacy agency in Oakland, California, agreed and began working for Cascadia in August 2004.

"Norm has been a tremendous force for good in the community," said CEO Leslie Ford. "We're very lucky to have him working with us on our ongoing, high priority initiatives."

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