

NEWS RELEASE



Umpqua Health Contributes \$150,000 to Douglas County Mental Health Court

Program provides help for those living with mental illness while easing burden on criminal justice system

ROSEBURG, Ore., June 14, 2017 – Umpqua Health recently contributed \$150,000 to the Douglas County Mental Health Court to ensure the continuation of a program for non-violent offenders with mental illness that keeps them out of jail and, instead, gets them into a diversion program that provides much-needed access to critical behavioral health services.

Started in 2014, the court is a five-phase program that requires at least 18 months of participation. At the end of phase five, participants will have missed no court dates, maintained sobriety, paid supervision and restitution fees, secured adequate housing, be medically compliant, and complied fully with a customized treatment plan for at least six consecutive months.

Graduates of the program avoid jail time and the related charges are expunged from their criminal record. The court also eases the burden on an already overloaded criminal justice system by removing non-violent offenders from the often lengthy and costly judicial process.

In a letter addressed to Umpqua Health, Douglas County Commissioners Chris Boice, Tim Freeman and Gary Leif wrote, “It is our strong belief that some people who need assistance with mental health issues as well as those suffering from symptoms of PTSD do not belong incarcerated in the county jail system. The continuation of Douglas County Mental Health Court is a community asset that is essential in the health and vitality of Douglas County.”

Umpqua Health’s contribution to Douglas County Mental Health Court is one of a variety of ways it is addressing the community’s behavioral health needs. In the past 24 months, the Roseburg-based health care organization has increased the number of its contracted behavioral health professionals by 38 percent, which has resulted in greater access to programs and services for Douglas County residents.

“Umpqua Health is committed to partnering with the county and local organizations to address issues in our community like the need for more behavioral health services,” said Bruce Croffy, MD, PhD, chief medical officer at Umpqua Health. “Douglas County’s Mental Health Court gives people a chance not just to repair their criminal records, but to repair their lives by providing them access to behavioral health services that historically have been difficult to find.”

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UMPQUA HEALTH – Douglas County Mental Health Court
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About Umpqua Health

Umpqua Health is the parent company of Umpqua Health Alliance, one of 16 Oregon coordinated care organizations serving the Oregon Health Plan. The Roseburg-based company and its subsidiaries are focused on expanding access, improving care, and reducing unnecessary costs across the clinical space for more than 26,000 Douglas County residents on the Oregon Health Plan and close to 10,000 more individuals with Medicare, private insurance or Exchange coverage.

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