



Virginia Garcia Memorial **HEALTH CENTER**

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Contact:

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center

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*****PRESS ADVISORY*****

VIRGINIA GARCIA MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTER, IN COLLABORATION WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY AND GREATER GOOD NORTHWEST, PARTNER TO PROVIDE RECUPERATIVE CARE FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

HILLSBORO - Located in the downtown area of Hillsboro there is a former motel that was once known as Econo Lodge. In July of 2021, thanks to funding from Oregon's Project Turnkey, the motel was converted to a bridge shelter by Washington County for transitional housing support. Participants are provided a room, connected with a case manager and referred to the housing navigation program. The shelter, managed by Greater Good Northwest, offers resources and services to residents during their stay.

During the pandemic it also provided residents with COVID-19 a place to isolate while they recovered. Over the past two years ten beds have been utilized for this specific purpose. However, with COVID cases waning, the beds have been empty, offering the County an opportunity to convert them for another purpose.

Earlier this year, Washington County's Department of Housing Services, Greater Good Northwest and Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center collaborated to propose making those ten beds available to individuals being discharged from the local hospital without stable housing options. During their stay, they will receive medical care from a clinical care coordination team including a primary care provider, as well as case management, housing location support, and access to meals and laundry services from Greater Good NW staff.

"When we were approached by Washington County about participating in this program, we knew it was an important next step in providing care to this community", said Virginia Garcia CEO Gil

Muñoz. “Virginia Garcia has long believed in supporting our patients beyond the exam room, ensuring they receive complete care that considers every aspect of a person’s environment.”

The service, known as LATS (low-acuity transitional support) helps to ensure that those who no longer require hospital level care, but are at risk for readmission without the proper follow-up care, have the the resources they need to recover and heal.

“We are excited to partner with Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center and Greater Good NW to offer recuperative care, meeting housing and healthcare needs simultaneously for our program participants”, said Jes Larson, Washington County Housing Services Assistant Director. “Virginia Garcia’s history providing critical medical services to Washington County residents will bring much needed expertise to our shelter program, to better serve folks with complex medical needs.”

In the community health environment, “recuperative care” (sometimes called “respite care”) is the name of the service that provides a safe place for people without stable housing to recuperate following a hospitalization or surgical procedure. Since being discharged to recover on the streets or other unsuitable housing increases the risk of re-hospitalization and poor outcomes referrals for the program come directly from the discharging hospital.

"The LATS program is filling a niche need in our community. This gives people the opportunity of wellness - to follow through with their medical care knowing they have a safe place to discharge to with continued support", said Caitlin Simpson, LATS Coordinator, Greater Good Northwest.

LATS is a partnership between:



Virginia Garcia Memorial
HEALTH CENTER



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Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center provides high quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate primary health care with a special emphasis on those with barriers to receiving health care. Since its founding 49 years ago, Virginia Garcia has grown from a single, grassroots clinic into a comprehensive health care home serving Washington and Yamhill counties. Today, Virginia Garcia employs nearly 600 people, has a budget of more than \$65 million, and serves more than 52,000 patients at five primary care clinics, six dental clinics, five school-based health centers, Reproductive Health Clinic and a mobile outreach clinic.

Visit www.virginiagarcia.org for more information on the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center.

Our Mission at **Greater Good Northwest** is to support participant centered communities that inspire dignity, sustainability, and purpose. We strive to change the way houseless participants are served in our community, and our approach is to offer participants our respect. We not only seek to honor their inherent dignity, we are committed to providing participants with a safe, warm place to stay for the night. Developing and maintaining meaningful relationships with the population we serve allows our team to successfully serve as mediators and connectors between participants and a variety of houseless service organizations in our area.

Visit www.greatergoodnorthwest.org for more information on Greater Good Northwest.