

May 9, 2008

Yesterday, the Board of County Commissioners approved a joint State of Oregon and Multnomah County loan to Cascadia, up to \$2.5 million. This will stabilize the mental health system through the end of June and allow work to continue on transition plans. I have attached Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler's statement about the loan.

As we develop program and financial plans, we are mindful of the stress of uncertainty for employees and consumers. And, while we don't yet know exactly how things will look in the future, we can ensure the continuation of treatment and residential services in Multnomah County.

I've received many offers of assistance from advocates and providers, whose perspective and ideas are critical as we plan for the future. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Cascadia employees whose commitment to consumers has continued in the face of current challenges and uncertainty.

Despite this complex transition planning process and an accelerated timeline, we are hopeful that our combined efforts will highlight needed reforms and generate improvements in the mental health system. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Please continue to direct questions or concerns to our Mental Health Call Center at 503-988-4888, available 24/7.

As more information becomes available, we will provide updates by email and post information on this website: www.co.multnomah.or.us/mh.shtml