

Payette, Idaho Task Force Explores Innovative Model For Recovery Housing

February 12, 2020

PAYETTE, IDAHO – Over a dozen local healthcare providers, non-profits, and others met February 12 in Payette to address substance use and related homelessness with a focus on Recovery Housing.

The meeting was hosted by St. Luke’s Health System Community Health Program Coordinator Dawn Callaham and led by Heidi Caldwell, Advocacy Director of the Western Idaho Community Action Partnership, a non-profit with over half a century of experience helping the disadvantaged in southwestern Idaho.

Featured presenters were Ernie Fletcher and Dave Johnson, Founder and CEO, respectively, of the Fletcher Group whose Rural Center Of Excellence (RCOE) is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to bring evidence-based, best-practice solutions, including sustainable Recovery Housing, to rural communities hit hard by the opioid and substance use epidemic.

Called a “model evidence-based program” by the federal government’s Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the program developed by Fletcher when governor of Kentucky currently encompasses 18 self-sustaining facilities that have helped thousands of people rebuild their lives while saving millions in taxpayer dollars.

Those attending included Saint Alphonsus Community Health and Well-Being Regional Manager Rebecca Lemmons and Washington County Health Alliance (WACHAT) Community Health Education Coordinator Kasey Brock. All were impressed by the documented success of the Recovery Kentucky model as well as the self-sustaining business model described in the presentation. It was agreed that the Fletcher Group will continue to work with the group, providing ongoing Technical Assistance regarding both planning and development.

Next steps will include clearly defining the project’s scope and form, recruitment of additional partners, and possible travel by some team members to see the Recovery Kentucky model up close.

Further meetings and announcements will be forthcoming, said Heidi Caldwell who characterized Wednesday’s event as a very promising first step.