

Walker Center To Open New Sober Living Facility in Gooding

GOODING, Idaho — With technical assistance from the Fletcher Group and unanimous approval by the Gooding city council, the non-profit Walker Center will soon be opening a new sober living facility on California Street. Those recovering from a drug or alcohol addiction will be able to live at the house and find support for their recovery through classes, volunteer activities, employment and peer-led accountability. Staff and volunteers from the community will help the residents develop life skills, build strong resumes, and taking cooking classes, among other activities.

“Mostly we want people that can help motivate and can help set this positive tone that just because you’ve made mistakes in the past, or you’ve struggled, that this is an opportunity for you to figure out what your goals are, and become a good contributor, and feel happy in your own skin again,” said Deborah Thomas, the CEO of the Walker Center.

Some renovations may need to be done to the house that was formerly used as a nursing home. The facility’s first residents are expected in January of 2023.

“What happens when somebody comes into a treatment center, whether that’s a hospital system, or a residential treatment center, is they learn a lot of skills, but it’s hard to put those to practice in life, so this will give people the opportunity to practice their skills and then give back to the community,” said Thomas.

The house will eventually be able to house up to 14 people.