ColumbiaCare welcomed Matthew Havniear to the Rental Assistance Program back at the beginning of 2017. Prior to joining the ColumbiaCare Team, he served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps. with deployments to both Afghanistan and Japan. He is a current Board Member of the Jackson County Community Services Consortium, an active member of the Jackson County Veterans Advisory Council and is the organizer for the Rogue Valley Veteran Network. He is also the founder of Team Overland, which is an Oregon-based, non-profit that is run by volunteers that uses outdoor expeditions as an outlet for Veterans to overcome challenges associated with PTSD. Matthew is also a registered ASIST Skills Trainer, which is how he discovered ColumbiaCare and the open position for RAP in Jackson County.

To see the Medford Mail Tribune article, visit their website at www.mailtribune.com/news
Mathew recently traveled back east to Washington D.C. for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Conference where he presented on Peer Support as well as specialized curriculum designed by himself. While he was there, he was also presented the 2017 Unsung Hero Award at the conference’s awards dinner. This award is presented every year to “an individual whose efforts go above and beyond expectations, who expects nothing in return and demonstrates a hero’s heart for homeless Veterans”, and we cannot think of a better recipient of this prestigious honor than Matthew.

Joseph Chick who is ColumbiaCare’s Veterans Services & Supportive Housing Program Administrator and Matthew’s direct supervisor described him as “one of the very best and most positive people I know. He finds a way to get involved with a lot people who need him. He is someone who believes in the work he’s doing and makes everyone else believe in it too.”

“I am honored to accept this year’s Unsung Hero Award. I share this award with my Tribe that has been beside me supporting my work every step of the way. I share this with my wife who has sacrificed and stood beside me through all my adventures. I share this with my boss and the rest of the ColumbiaCare for truly knowing the value of being engaged in our community. They have fully backed me up and not only allowed me to help my community but have encouraged it. I share this with Team Overland, which is the best team of individuals a person could ask for. I share this with my Vet-Rep Tribe for constantly motivating me to be my best even on days that it seems impossible. I share this with my mentors! Thank you to all who have joined me on my crazy adventure to make this world a better place.”

-MATTHEW HAVNIEAR