Supportive Housing encompasses a variety of levels of care from intensive on-site support services to minimal or no on-site staff – program specifics are tailored to meet the needs and strengths of our tenants. ColumbiaCare provides the following levels of Supportive Housing in the Pacific Northwest:

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.** These programs are unlicensed residential settings that provide supported, independent living. Housing is made available to persons with mental illness on both a transitional or permanent basis. Supportive Housing programs are typically step-down resources from higher levels of care.

Some Key Elements of Supportive Housing are: Tenants typically have a lease in their name and full rights of tenancy under landlord-tenant law, including control over living space and protection against eviction. No different than leases held by someone who does not have a psychiatric disability. House rules, if any, are similar to those found in housing for people who do not have psychiatric disabilities and do not restrict visitors or otherwise interfere with a life in the community. Housing is not time-limited unless specifically identified as “transitional” housing. Rents are affordable and are modeled under HUD’s low-income housing standards.

**PARKS MODEL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.** These programs are more intensively staffed supportive housing programs that provide tenants with access to on-site support services and programming that promotes recovery. An example of this type of program is Swing Lane that is located in Medford, OR, which is a combination of 5 units of intensive supportive housing (one 1-bedroom, four 2-bedroom units) and 2 units of transitional Board and Care (two 3-bedroom units). Swing Lane has an office with on-site staff 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Supportive Housing programming includes medication monitoring, assistance with activities of daily living, transportation, meal preparation, shopping, budgeting, and other duties as needed and appropriate. The Supportive Housing Supervisor provides 5 hours per week of supervision, staff guidance, coordination with referring agencies, and treatment planning.

### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS

**PORTLAND METRO AREA & EASTERN OREGON.**

- LINCOLN PARK, Multnomah County (5 beds)
- GREENBURG, Washington County (8 beds)
- ASTER PLACE, Washington County (2 beds)
- COURT ROYAL, Wasco County (10 beds)
- MORROW BUNKHOUSE, Morrow County (2 beds)
- IDAHO.
  - IRIS APARTMENTS, Nez Pearce County (9 beds)
INTEGRATED HOUSING. Formerly known as Supported Housing, these programs are very similar to Supportive Housing because they are also unlicensed mental health housing resources. These programs are considered “fully-integrated”, permanent or transitional housing units that enable individuals to attain and maintain affordable housing within the community. Support services can be offered to tenants living in Integrated Housing and are available as needed or desired, but are not a requirement of tenancy. Other identifying factors of Integrated Housing is no more than 25% of the units in any building can be occupied by individuals with a disability, and housing providers cannot reject individuals for placement due to medical needs or substance abuse history.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE… We realize that our communities are dealing with the housing crisis. Finding affordable, accessible housing is difficult for many of our community members. As a provider, we know it can be even more challenging for the vulnerable population we serve. We are appreciative of all the efforts and investments being made to provide an array of housing resources that provide shelter, but it is critical that we fund and offer housing programming that meet the sometimes exceptional behavioral health needs of tenants. Treatment affects outcomes. The more treatment, the more improvement can be expected. We believe that having multiple “levels of care” available within the housing arena is a very proactive, person-centered way to improve population health and improve health care delivery while reducing costs by diverting and keeping people out of higher levels of care. ColumbiaCare has witnessed how this improves outcomes and it can even save lives.

QUESTIONS? For more information about our services and referral process, or if you’re interested in our Veterans Program housing resources, please visit our website at www.columbiacare.org. If you are interested in having ColumbiaCare develop similar services, please contact Jennifer Sewitsky, Communications Director at jsewitsky@columbiacare.org.

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