

City of Poulsbo

Housing, Health and Human Services



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

City of Poulsbo, Housing, Health & Human Services
200 NE Moe Street, Poulsbo, WA 98370
360.394.9794

September 12, 2023

City of Poulsbo Announces North Kitsap Recovery Resource Center - Grand Opening 10/19

In response to rising overdose rates in Kitsap County, and state drug laws giving new responsibility to local governments to arrest and prosecute drug use and possession, the City of Poulsbo is working with partners to open a Recovery Resource Center (RRC) this October. An Open House will be held from 10am-1pm on Thursday, October 19, 2023 and all are welcome to attend. The opioid antagonist medication Naloxone will be distributed to visitors while supplies last.

Located at 19351 8th Ave NE, Suite 141 in Poulsbo, the RRC will be a welcoming place where people interested in recovery services can meet with peers and a mental health counselor, access medication assisted treatment and other addiction services, see a nurse for basic health needs, and connect with tele-health providers. Thanks to funding from the Olympic Community of Health, there will be no charge for any Center service and people will be assisted regardless of insurance or income status. Agencies involved in the RRC include Peer Washington, Kitsap Public Health, Kitsap Mental Health Services, Kitsap Homes of Compassion, Olympic Peninsula Health Services, Believe in Recovery, and AMFM Health Services.

Beginning October 26th, the RRC will be open every Thursday from 10am-4pm. For the first few months, visitors will need to be referred by the Poulsbo Municipal Court, Bainbridge Municipal Court, or a North Kitsap field outreach program to receive services (Fire CARES, Police Navigator, North Kitsap R.E.A.L. Team). The hope is to expand access to anyone living in North Kitsap in the new year.

“We know, here in Poulsbo, that we cannot arrest and jail our way out of our drug crisis,” says Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson. “And we also know that a permissive attitude toward drug use is damaging for many people. We’re working with our Court, prosecutors and first responders to create incentives for recovery for people involved in the criminal justice system, and to make sure the help people need is readily available.”

“Kitsap Public Health is pleased to partner with the City of Poulsbo on this new Center,” says Kitsap Public Health District Health Officer Dr. Gib Morrow. “Substance use disorder is a health problem that cannot be successfully addressed without access to a community support and healthcare services. Having peers and providers in one place is a great way to reduce barriers and promote recovery.”

In February of 2021, the Washington State Supreme Court struck down the state’s main drug possession law. For several years, drug use in Washington state was effectively decriminalized, creating pressure for state legislatures to “fix” the Blake decision. During the last legislative session, a state law was passed (SB 5536) which makes it a gross misdemeanor to knowingly possess counterfeit substances and controlled substances and/or knowingly use prohibited substances in a public place. Cities throughout Washington are now responsible for enforcing drug laws and developing prosecution alternatives.

For more information, please call the City of Poulsbo’s Housing, Health and Human Services department at 360.394.9794 or email kimberlyh@cityofpoulsbo.com.