

News Release

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Oxford House expands contract with Trillium Health Resources Research shows Oxford House residents see higher incomes and lower substance use

GREENVILLE, NC-Oxford House and Trillium Health Resources have partnered again to expand on the 2020 contract between the two agencies. As of March 2020, when COVID-19 forced a pause on new house openings, the partnership had resulted in 18 new houses in eight counties in the Trillium region since 2016. The new contract will provide \$342,000.00 to Oxford House to open four new homes.

The 2020 Oxford House contract saw amazing successes for our region. Oxford Houses are a clean and sober housing option for individuals in recovery. This has resulted in 107 people living in these 18 houses who are able to find employment, focus on their recovery, and contribute to meaningful relationships in their communities.

As of September 2019, nationwide more than 85% of Oxford House residents are employed. They are actively attending on average at least three recovery meetings (such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous) every week. Most importantly, research shows that "At the 24-month follow-up, those in the Oxford House condition compared with the usual-care condition had <u>significantly lower substance use, significantly higher monthly income, and significantly lower incarceration rates.</u>"

One of these residents, Ashley, explains how Oxford House has provided her with a positive environment to experience recovery.

"On March 6, 2020, I celebrated one year free from drugs and alcohol. I got my [driver] license back and bought a car. My family and I are mending our relationships. I just spent the weekend with my mother and oldest daughter, and I get to see my two-year-old every weekend. All of this would probably not have happened if it were not for Oxford House. It has given me the time and place to start my life over again."

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While many of the houses in North Carolina serve primarily male residents, specialized houses have also opened that serve both mothers and their children (one in Wilmington and one in Greenville) and students enrolled in college courses (one in Greenville).

"It is my belief we have been truly successful in providing much needed housing for those early in recovery from a Substance Use Disorder. This is due in large part to Trillium Health Resources believing that housing is vital part of the continuum of care," shared Keith Gibson, Project Director. "In addition, they have been willing to invest their resources towards that goal."

At the end of 2019, there were more than 2,700 Oxford Houses with over 22,000 beds throughout the country. As of February 2020, there are 273 houses in North Carolina, with locations in more than 30 cities. With an average of eight beds per house, there are more than 2,000 Oxford House beds in the state. Individuals typically enter an <u>Oxford House</u> after completing a drug and alcohol treatment program and must remain sober in order to continue as residents. Following an application and approval process, individuals living in a house are expected to participate in a recovery program in the community during their residence. Residents must also follow basic house rules including contributions to household expenses and electing officers.

Governor Roy Cooper recently designated May 2020 as "Oxford House Month" in recognition of the support it provides in North Carolina (see attachment).

ABOUT TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/ developmental disabilities in 26 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is transforming lives and building community well-being through partnership and proven solutions. We help every community and individual we serve to reach their fullest potential. By coordinating care across multiple systems, we achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care, and efficient use of resources. Trillium remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit www.TrilliumHealthResources.org.

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State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

OXFORD HOUSE MONTH

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Oxford House, Incorporated, is a nonprofit organization with an international network of recovery homes for persons recovering from substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, the philosophy behind Oxford House is three-fold: self-help is the bedrock of recovery, disciplined democracy is key to living together, and self-support builds efficacy in sobriety comfortable enough to avoid relapse; and

WHEREAS, there are 275 Oxford Houses in North Carolina providing a total of more than 2,100 recovery beds serving both men and women; these houses are part of a network of more than 2,700 Oxford Houses nationally; and

WHEREAS, Oxford House is celebrating its 29th year of successful operation in our state, providing services and rehabilitative support in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina commends Oxford House for their ongoing commitment to support people in long-term recovery from substance use disorder;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2020, as **"OXFORD HOUSE MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.