



AND



NEWS RELEASE

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR ADDICTIONS TREATMENT IN NANAIMO

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Building on 26 years of successfully providing addiction treatment to men in our community, Nanaimo & District Surfside Society is excited to announce a new partnership designed to offer an even more effective model of treatment. Starting the end of September 2011, Surfside and Nanaimo Region John Howard Society will begin operating the Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community, at Surfside Recovery House, a 20 bed facility on Rosstown Road in Nanaimo.

The Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community at Surfside will serve the same client base Surfside has always supported which is predominantly men who cannot afford treatment in private facilities. The model has been proven in the United States and has been further modified and improved by Nanaimo Region John Howard Society at Nanaimo Correctional Centre since 2007 and at a smaller five bed community based facility in Nanaimo since 2010. The Guthrie Therapeutic Community at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre has delivered impressive results measured through decreases in participants who relapse following their release.

“Our board and staff care deeply about providing accessible and affordable addictions treatment for men. When we began talks with the folks at John Howard Society we quickly learned that they had the same desire with different strengths to bring to the table.” says Leslee Banks, Board Chair of Surfside. “Funders and donors want to see charities working together for greater efficiency and to continually improve results through our programs. We feel privileged to work with John Howard Society to build on the strengths of both charities and to continue to help men recover from addictions.”

One of the major differences between the soon to be phased out program and the new Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community program is that most clients will stay in treatment for four months rather than 42 days. The whole health of the individual will be addressed through various treatment phases that focus on learning and healing through community participation and interaction rather than individual therapy. Clients will come from a variety of referral sources and can also self-refer.

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“Surfside’s facility is an incredible opportunity to expand our Therapeutic Community program model locally to the general public,” says France Tellier, Director of Programs for the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society. “Many people don’t realize that John Howard Society has programs that serve the general public and our focus is larger than helping incarcerated people or those needing support as they get released from prison. We always recognized a need in the community and have been actively looking for a larger facility. We are honored to partner with Surfside and look forward to making the Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community a reality.”

The addictions treatment program at Surfside will be phased out by the end of September 2011. Existing clients will have the opportunity to participate in the new program and a smooth transition is being planned to ensure minimal disruption to this community care service.

Surfside’s current staff members have been invited to apply to the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society for new positions at the Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community. Concern for clients and staff has been paramount for both agencies. After September, Surfside Society will no longer employ staff and instead will oversee the service contract with Nanaimo Region John Howard Society and work to improve the facilities that are in dire need of an up-grade. Surfside will continue as a non-profit and charity with a community board of directors.

For more information about how to participate in the Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community please call Nanaimo Region John Howard Society at 250-754-1266.

You can help ensure that the Vancouver Island Therapeutic Community is a success!

The facility requires a number of upgrades and donations are needed to purchase equipment and supplies. Please call Leslee Banks at 250-714-4359 or visit www.surfsiderecovery.com for our wish list.

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For more information contact:

Leslee Banks
Board Chair
Nanaimo & District Surfside Society
250-714-4359

France Tellier
Director of Programs
Nanaimo Region John Howard Society
250-754-1266