

## Lifeways named health care provider for Canyon County crisis center

CALDWELL — Behavioral health care provider Lifeways, Inc. will operate the mental health crisis center planned for Canyon County in December, according to Wednesday press release.

State funds for three new mental health crisis centers in Idaho became available July 1, but Canyon County health officials are still searching for a location for Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Region 3's center. Crisis centers are designed as a treatment option for adults experiencing serious mental health issues who would otherwise be arrested or taken to an emergency room.

Lifeways is one of the largest behavioral health care providers in the area and is based in Ontario, Oregon. Lifeways operates several offices in Idaho, including in Caldwell, Nampa, Weiser, Boise and Idaho City. They also operate outpatient and residential care services in Malheur and Umatilla counties in Oregon, according to the press release.

Nikole Zogg, director of Southwest District Health and a member of the Region 3 crisis center planning committee, previously told the Idaho Press the committee has already turned down donations of two possible locations in Canyon County. Zogg said a building would need space for at least 20 beds, have adequate parking and be situated on a public transit route.

“We have limited resources to remodel or renovate, so it is important that the space require few modifications,” Zogg previously told the Idaho Press.

The crisis center planned for Canyon County will receive \$200,000 in one-time startup costs from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, then \$1.5 million for two years to cover operations. After that, the center has to come up with a plan to reduce state funding by half and become more self-sustaining.

The Region 3 crisis center — which will be located in the Nampa and Caldwell area — will also serve Adams, Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington counties. Canyon County's crisis center is tentatively scheduled to open in December — although that depends on finding a suitable existing location in time.

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