



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: April 20, 2026		Subject: Peer Support Services Review	
		Staff Member: Amanda Guile-Hinman, City Attorney	
		Department: Legal	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	
		Comments: N/A	
Staff Recommendation: N/A			
Recommended Language for Motion: N/A			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities: Goal 2: Public Safety, Strategy 2.6: Develop pilot program for contracted peer support specialist	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Council review of contracted peer support services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of its 2025-27 Council Goals, the Council adopted Council Goal 2: Public Safety and, within that Goal, Strategy 2.6 to develop pilot program for a contracted peer support specialist funded through funds received by the City through settlements of national opioid litigation. The Oregon Health Authority defines a peer support specialist as “an individual providing services to another individual who shares a similar life experience with the peer support specialist....” The City, as a recipient of funds from several settlements of national lawsuits concerning the manufacture and sale of prescription opioids, is required to use the settlement funds towards opioid abuse prevention, treatment, and/or education (the [May 19, 2025 staff report](#) provides further information regarding the settlements). One of the uses of the funds specifically identified in the settlements is providing peer support services.

For fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, the City contracted with The Peer Company, also known as The Mental Health Association of Oregon, to provide peer support services for individuals experiencing or appearing to experience mental health challenges and/or substance use disorders, as allowed under the national opioid settlement agreements. The Peer Company hired peer support specialist Denyell Cruise to be assigned to Wilsonville beginning in late October 2025. The Peer Company actively engages with law enforcement, County services, City departments, non-profit service providers (including Wilsonville Community Sharing and Heart of the City), and community members to build connections and support people through shared lived experience.

For the Council’s review of peer support services over the last six months, the following documents are provided with this staff report:

1. The Peer Company’s first quarterly report (for Q2 of FY25-26 – October 2025 through December 2026)
2. The Peer Company’s second quarterly report (for Q3 of FY25-26 – January 2026 through March 2026)
3. Letter from Wilsonville Library staff
4. Letter from Wilsonville Community Sharing
5. Letter from Brenda Evans, former Clackamas County Behavioral Health clinician, assigned to Wilsonville Police Department
6. Testimonial letters from individuals who utilized peer support services

Based on staff’s review of the quarterly reports and information provided by community partners, staff recommends continuing peer support services through FY26-27. Of particular note, staff finds that peer support services work in tandem with the City’s investment in behavioral health services through the County. Often, the peer support specialist is the person who has capacity and ability to continue working with community members who come into contact with behavioral health services. Having peer support services helps ensure that community members receive continued support and behavioral health services can focus efforts on immediate and emergent needs in the community. Staff has witnessed and been part of the

partnership between peer support services and other government services, supporting vulnerable community members.

The City has sufficient funds from national opioid settlements to fund peer support services through FY26-27, and, assuming continued Council support of peer support services, staff anticipates continuing such services through FY26-27. After FY26-27, additional resources will be necessary. Staff has been engaging with surrounding jurisdictions, Clackamas County, and state officials regarding funding and partnership opportunities.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

Continuation of peer support services through FY26-27.

TIMELINE:

As mentioned, assuming continued Council support of peer support services, staff anticipates continuing such services through FY26-27, funded by the City's opioid settlement funds. After FY26-27, additional resources will be necessary and staff is working to find alternative opportunities should the Council be interested in continuing peer support services after FY26-27.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

N/A

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

Peer support services actively engage with many City partners and community members in connecting with individuals who may benefit from peer support services.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

As identified in the letters attached to this staff report, community partners and community members have seen positive benefits of access to peer support services. Importantly, peer support services complement City-funded County behavioral health services housed in the Wilsonville Police Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City could elect not to continue funding peer support services.

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. The Peer Company's first quarterly report (Q2 of FY25-26 – Oct 2025 through Dec 2026)
2. The Peer Company's second quarterly report (Q3 of FY25-26 – Jan 2026 through Apr 2026)
3. Letter from Wilsonville Library staff
4. Letter from Wilsonville Community Sharing
5. Letter from Brenda Evans, former Clackamas County Behavioral Health clinician, assigned to Wilsonville Police Department

6. Testimonial letters from individuals who utilized peer support services