



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

CAHOOTS Metro Service Area Expanding Into Springfield

White Bird Clinic, in partnership with the City of Springfield and Lane County, is pleased to announce that CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) is expanding service into Springfield. The new *CAHOOTS Metro* van will operate from noon to 11:30p.m., 7 days a week, every day of the year. *CAHOOTS Metro* can be accessed by anyone in the Springfield and Glenwood areas by calling the Springfield Police Non-Emergency number at 541.726.3714.

What: CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) Metro van services expanding

Who: Members of the public that are struggling with a mental health crisis, substance abuse issues or shelter needs.

When: Service begins January 14

Where: Springfield

Media: To set-up an interview, contact Niel Laudati 541.726.3780

Additional information: Contact Chuck Gerard or Kate Gillespie, at 541.726.4585 or chuckg@whitebirdclinc.org or kgillespie.msw@gmail.com or at www.whitebirdclinc.org.

Background:

CAHOOTS was formed in 1989 by White Bird Clinic to support the Eugene Police Department with situations involving mental health crisis, substance abuse issues and shelter needs. For 25 years CAHOOTS has had two vans in Eugene, each staffed with a Mental Health Crisis Worker and an Emergency Medical Technician. Services have included crisis counseling, mental health interventions, and assistance with substance abuse problems, transportation to shelter and treatment, and first-aid, all at no cost to the client. A grant from the State of Oregon to Lane County will now allow White Bird's *CAHOOTS Metro* team to deliver these services in Springfield and Glenwood.

White Bird Clinic was started in 1970 to provide services to individuals in Lane County who were struggling with medical, mental health and substance use issues, and who felt alienated from mainstream systems. What began as a grassroots and largely volunteer effort over time went from being an experiment to a key agency in the local continuum of care. White Bird Clinic's mission is to be a collective environment organized to enable people to gain control of their social, emotional, and physical well-being through direct service, education, and community. White Bird Clinic's priority is to serve people who are otherwise unserved, low/no-income, underinsured, disabled and/or homeless – we see ourselves as operating below the safety net because we try to catch the people who fall through the holes in the net.