

Ko-kwel Wellness Center

January 2020 Update

Planning for a tribal wellness center is moving briskly, and tribal leaders promise a finished product that brings medical excellence to patients and pride to the tribe.

“This is going to be a beautiful building, with room to grow,” said Chairperson Brenda Meade. “It’s going to be an asset to the Coquille Tribe and to the Kilkich neighborhood.”

Project leaders are working with Medford contractor S+B James Construction to fine-tune the 21,000-square-foot Ko-kwel Wellness Center. Project leaders say the building won’t be lavishly constructed or extravagant in size. But it will provide efficient, pleasant surroundings for a range of health-care services.

Along with primary medical care, the tribe will begin offering dental care, behavioral health and alternative therapies in a “holistic” approach. The design sets aside land for future growth of the medical and dental clinics.

The building was designed with community sensibilities in mind. After listening to tribal members and other Kilkich residents at a series of community meetings, project leaders adopted several ideas from community members.

Chair Meade emphasized that the building represents both medical and financial progress for the tribe. Health care for tribal members is the tribe’s biggest expense, consuming millions of dollars of General Fund revenue each year. Tribal leaders want to ease that burden with creative use of “other people’s money.”

The \$12 million project will use no more than \$1 million of the tribe’s own money. The rest will come from grants, private investments and a federal loan. Tax credits for rural development will repay the private investments, and the wellness center’s increased revenue will cover the federal loan.

The wellness center will generate new revenue two ways: First, it will be a “one-stop shop,” where tribal families can access more services than they do now. Second, as many as a quarter of the center’s patients will be non-tribal. Those people’s fees (paid by health insurance or the Oregon Health Authority) will free up tribal money to cover other programs for tribal families.

“This is an important strategic move for us,” Chair Meade said. “It’s a gift we can give to future generations of Coquille people.”

How the new wellness center will enhance care

- Same-day care
- More appointment access
- Dental care
- Behavioral health services

Our care providers today



MD



Family Nurse Practitioner

Expected first-year additions



Physician's Assistant
(Same-day care)



Behavioral Health Specialist



Dentist



Dental Health Aide Therapists



Dental Hygienist

Services projected for Year 2



Mental Health Counseling



Chiropractic Care



Acupuncture Therapy



Massage Therapy

New developments in wellness center design



What 'integrated care' means to you

A key aspect of the new wellness center is the concept of integrated, holistic care.

Clustering multiple services under one roof enables patients to access a "one-stop shop" for medical care, dentistry, counseling, a pharmacy, and alternative care options.

All these services will take place in a friendly, comfortable environment. The building will feature natural light, an interior courtyard, native plants, and design themes reflecting the Coquille people's indigenous heritage.

Fill 'er up

The wellness center will stand on property that used to be cranberry Bogs 1 and 2. Now Bog 3 will have a supporting role as a dirt depository. Hauling out cranberry roots and vines will leave a shallow pit to accommodate soil from project excavation.

Putting the dirt in Bog 3 will be faster and cheaper than trucking it elsewhere. It will also reduce truck traffic through the neighborhood.

A safe site

The wellness center will be earthquake-resilient, resting on secure pilings. Its location is outside the inundation zone for all but the most severe tsunamis. And a recent environmental report delivered a clean bill of health.

Safer streets

Along with the wellness center, a related project will shift the traffic flow in front of the Learning Center. The goal is to separate Miluk Drive traffic from the children attending Head Start and other Learning Center programs.

Fitness center

Kilkich's fitness room, currently located in the housing authority warehouse, will move into the vacated Community Health Center building. It'll be a convenient location with 24-hour access.

Jobs

The Ko-kwel Wellness Center will add more than 20 new jobs, starting in the spring and summer of 2020. To learn more, contact Health Administrator Kelle Little or Human Resources Director Mike Frost at (541) 756-0904, or email mikefrost@coquilletribe.org or kellylittle@coquilletribe.org.

Subcontractors

Primary contractor S+B James is interested in subcontracting with companies owned by tribal member families. To learn more, email faunalarkin@coquilletribe.org, or call Operations Director Fauna Larkin at (541) 756-0904.