



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Boone County Judge to lead meeting, announce launch of sober living home

For immediate release

MADISON, W.Va. – A public meeting to discuss plans for a sober living home called “Hero House” will be held at 5 p.m., Nov. 18, at the Boone County Courthouse. It will be hosted by Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties) Judge William S. Thompson.

Judge Thompson hosted an initial meeting last summer. Two local ministers, Ritchie Schultz of Lick Creek Community Church and Bill Mullins of Mercy Revival in Boone County are now heading the venture, which will be supported by numerous congregations.

Judge Thompson said the circuit court drug court program can help those who want help achieve sobriety. “The problem is, after you get them clean they are often returned to the same place they were before, surrounded by drugs. Because of the poverty in our region, most are unable to obtain work and housing, forcing them to return to that life. That’s where a sober living house would come in.”

“This is our chance as a community to give those suffering in addiction the opportunity to change their future,” said Rev. Shultz.

A location has not been selected. The facility will offer job assistance and transportation so residents may work and/or go to school. Based on similar projects, the residents will likely be required to participate in twelve-step recovery programs. Drug and alcohol counselors will provide group and individual therapy.

“I am extremely proud of the steps that are being taken to help rid our area of addiction. Looking to the government for answers is not always the right place, but it can help,” said Delegate Josh Nelson, R-Boone. “Bringing a sober living house to the area, an area hit so hard by addiction, is definitely an answer to a prayer that many churches in Southern West Virginia have had for a long time.”

Senator Ron Stollings, D-Boone, said, “As a physician I have seen the many health problems and social problems of people who end up drinking too much. Studies show that the younger a person starts to drink the more likely they are to have a problem with alcohol or drug use.”

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