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Crime Team  
The Oregonian  
1321 S.W. Broadway  
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Re: Criminals and Addictions

Recovery Row's Straight Facts, in Salem, works with prisoners and parolees who have drug and/or alcohol addictions but would not succeed in traditional treatment centers. Straight Facts is unique in its work as an outpatient program that successfully addresses criminality and addictions.

"We do just as much lifestyle work as on alcohol and drug education," says Ellie Merskin, the director. Ellie, who was in the criminal justice system, founded the program in 1996 with Marion County Corrections. The county funds it, along with grants and the Oregon Health Plan.

Statistics from Straight Fact's 2007–2008 programs show that success rates ranged from 68 to 79 percentage. Since then, Straight Facts has tripled the number of clients it serves.

In 2006, Straight Facts became part of Recovery Row. Recovery Row is a licensed specialty hospital and is included in the book *The 100 Best Treatment Centers for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse*. It is headquartered in Eugene, with facilities and outpatient programs throughout Oregon.

You are welcome to attend groups and talk to counselors and clients. If you would like to explore Straight Facts, please call me (888) 959-8143 or use my e-mail: [tb@pcc.com](mailto:tb@pcc.com).

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Tim Burton  
PR representative for Recovery Row/Straight Facts