



#### Office Locations

4211 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
**Eugene, OR 97402**  
(541) 485-1577

Inpatient  
91150 N. Coburg  
Industrial Way  
**Coburg, OR 97408**  
(541) 687-1110

1050 Price Road SE  
**Albany, OR 97322**  
(541) 928-9681

920 Emkay Drive  
Suite 104  
**Bend, OR 97702**  
(541) 383-0844

10920 SW Barbur Blvd.  
**Portland, OR 97219**  
(503) 244-4500

N.W. Kline Street  
**Roseburg, OR 97471**  
(541) 673-3504

960 Liberty Street SE  
Suite 120  
**Salem, OR 97302**  
(503) 588-2804

**Administration**  
PO Box 8549  
Coburg, OR 97408  
(541) 687-1110

A Nonprofit Treatment  
Center Dedicated to  
Treating Substance  
Use Disorders

[serenitylane.org](http://serenitylane.org)

SB 5531: Testimony for Serenity Lane re: CAPCON request for Security:  
Electronic Key Cards (2 min)

- Good morning. My name is Pete Kerns, CEO of Serenity Lane and Former Chief of Police for Eugene. I am here to seek your support for a \$500,000 request to install an electronic key card system on our 15-acre campus in Coburg. This investment will enhance security, safeguard lives and create an environment of safety and healing for our patients and staff.
- 
- Serenity Lane is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing treatment for people with substance use disorder, many of whom also have co-occurring mental health issues. Our statewide presence and 52 years of experience in this field make us a trusted source of treatment for families, referents and employers, and a trusted employer for medical staff, nursing staff, clinical staff and people in the trades
- 
- Over the years, we have served more than 70,000 Oregonians, improving lives in every community in our state. Our Coburg campus plays a crucial role, housing up to 120 residents who receive withdrawal management and residential care services tailored to adults with co-occurring substance use and mental health challenges. Additionally, approximately 150 dedicated employees work on our campus to provide compassionate care and support.
- 
- This essential work is increasingly jeopardized by an alarming reality: health care workers are five times more likely to experience workplace violence than other professions, with violence accounting for 73% of all nonfatal workplace injuries in our field. National surveys reveal a 119% increase in workplace violence incidents reported by nurses between 2021 and 2022—a trend that mirrors the challenges faced in behavioral health settings in Oregon.
- 
- The threat does not merely stem from the unpredictable nature of patients in distress; violence also originates from external actors. Some patients arrive at Serenity Lane with histories tied to substance use, criminal activities, or weapon possession. This reality exposes our campus to risks from individuals with unresolved conflicts involving our patients.

- Recognizing this risk, our all-hazards consultants have recommended the installation of an electronic key card system across our campus. This system would provide controlled access for both staff and patients, especially those living in dormitories on our open campus. Such a measure would significantly reduce vulnerabilities, ensuring a safe space for recovery and care.
- 
- We are asking for the necessary resources to address a pressing and known threat to the safety of our patients and staff. Your support for this request is an investment in the lives of Oregonians seeking hope and healing, and in the well-being of the dedicated professionals who serve them.
- 

Thank you for your consideration

Pete Kerns – President and CEO  
Serenity lane