

## Mental Health Association of Portland

PO Box 3641, Portland, Oregon 97208

[www.mentalhealthportland.org](http://www.mentalhealthportland.org)

503-367-6128

May 11, 2020

Pam Krecklow  
Certificate of Need Coordinator  
OHA Public Health Division  
SENT BY EMAIL TO [pam.l.krecklow@state.or.us](mailto:pam.l.krecklow@state.or.us)

RE - United Health Services aka NEWCO CN # 682

Dear Pam,

The Mental Health Association of Portland is requesting “affected party status” for NEWCO Oregon Inc. (Universal Health Services) Certificate of Need application #682 to build a freestanding psychiatric hospital in Wilsonville. We make such a request as an organization that holds a public interest in the results of the review process.

The Mental Health Association of Portland is Oregon’s impartial and independent advocate for persons with mental illness and addiction. Our task is to help persons with mental illness or addiction speak up and speak out – and to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. It is a 501 C 3 nonprofit organization, governed by peer volunteers and active in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties in Oregon, and Clark County, Washington since 2003. The organization maintains advisory councils and committees for individual educational and advocacy projects.

Our advocacy experience is strong. In 2003 our advocacy at the Oregon State Hospital made the New York Times front page, won The Oregonian a Pulitzer, and launched an investigation which got the hospital rebuilt. Our advocacy on behalf of persons routinely harmed by law enforcement has been front page news since the death of James Chasse in 2006. Our advocacy has changed policies and procedures by patrol officers, jail deputies, prosecuting and defense attorneys, judges and court administrators. Our critically acclaimed documentary film, *Alien Boy*, is internationally distributed through Breaking Glass Pictures.

The organization provides education through the website and conferences. With links to over 20,000 articles and documents about mental illness and addiction in Oregon, it is perhaps the largest web site dedicated to mental health advocacy. The site is updated daily and has over 50,000 subscribers through email, Facebook, Twitter and an eventual reach of over 2.4 million per year.

The organization is the host of the Northwest Law & Mental Health Conference, held annually in the Spring, and the Oregon Housing Conference, held annually in the Fall. The Mental Health Alliance and Washington Recovery Services are programs of the organization.

Our cumulative understanding of the Oregon mental health system and how services and facilities interact give us a clear interest in assuring that any facility (new or existing) will properly honor the rights and safety of their residents and not undermine the quality, availability or cost of services elsewhere.

For these reasons, the Mental Health Association of Portland asks to be recognized as having affected party status.

Jason Renaud  
Secretary of the Board  
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