



PeaceHealth
Sacred Heart
Medical Center

Oregon Heart &
Vascular Institute

Oregon Cardiology

July 24, 2023

Matt Gilman, Program Manager
Oregon Health Authority
Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 465
Portland, OR 97232
Via email: Matt.S.GILMAN@oha.oregon.gov

RE: CN#699, PeaceHealth Riverbend, new acute rehabilitation hospital

Dear Mr. Gilman:

I have served as the Executive Medical Director of the Oregon Heart & Vascular Institute for more than 15 years. The Institute includes cardiologists; cardiac surgeons, interventional radiologists and vascular surgeons in partnership with research teams at the University of Oregon.

I am writing to express my strongest support of the proposed PeaceHealth Riverbend, LLC acute rehabilitation hospital. The net gain of 23 beds is needed, as is the replacement of a program that has served the community for decades, but can no longer support the equipment, space and infrastructure needs of the growing population that requires acute rehabilitation.

A recent study from the American Heart Association reported that nearly half of U.S. adults are living with some form of a heart condition, and as many as 6.9% have severe cardiovascular disease. Recovering from a cardiac event or severe heart disease can be a long and challenging process. Following open-heart surgery, patients need a multidisciplinary team of medical specialists, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, psychologists, doctors, nurses, and respiratory therapists to recover as much function as possible. Other cardiac patients benefit from general strengthening, as the cardiac systems of these patients are often functioning at below 50 percent.

Importantly, physiatrists see patients in acute rehabilitation multiple times per week. This enhanced medical oversight means cardiac patients are continually monitored for signs of complications and medical staff is readily available should any chest pains or other symptoms arise during their stay. Acute rehabilitation reduces a patient's risk of re-hospitalization and lowers mortality rates.

This new hospital will greatly support our patients, as well as the broader region.

Thank you.

Rick Padgett, MD
Executive Director