



Peace  
Health

Matt Gilman, MPPA  
Oregon Health Authority  
Health Care Regulation &  
Quality Improvement  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite  
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Portland, OR 97232

Via email:

Matt.S.GILMAN@oha.oregon.gov  
RE: CN#699, PeaceHealth  
Riverbend, new acute rehabilitation  
hospital

July 23, 2023

Dear Mr. Gilman:

I am a clinical neuropsychologist, a specialty field within clinical psychology, dedicated to understanding the relationships between brain and behavior. Particularly as these relationships can be applied to diagnosis of neurocognitive disorders following traumatic brain injury, brain cancer, stroke, demyelinating disorders, and more. As a member of the rehabilitation team at the Oregon Rehabilitation Center (ORC), I assist with treatment planning and work closely with the multidisciplinary team to address the psychological and cognitive barriers to daily living. I often recommend specific approaches and assistive devices to support patients with cognitive disorders relearn basic skills or learn new ways of accomplishing their daily activities.

I also work closely on post-hospital planning and community re-entry where we support patients, and their families, as they learn about mitigating the impact of brain injury to allow patients to focus on achieving their life goals.

I am highly supportive of the proposed new PeaceHealth Riverbend LLC acute rehabilitation hospital. The current ORC facility is dated and unable to be modernized in a cost-effective manner. I regularly experience the impact of the lack of physical space in the ORC. The new hospital will also include an activities of daily living (ADL) therapy suite/apartment that will facilitate assessment; something that the current facility does not have the space to set up.

The community and region will also benefit from the new dedicated wing for both acquired brain injury and spinal cord patients. Today, even when the unit is not full, the admission of new brain injury/spinal cord patients can be challenging because of the lack of equipment and therapy spaces, forcing patients to leave the area for care, a costly and inconvenient process. This will no longer be an issue in the new hospital.

Thank you for your full and timely consideration of this much needed project.

541-686-7300  
peacehealth.org

1255 Hilyard Street  
Eugene, OR 97401

Sincerely,

Megan Dorenkamp, PhD