



**FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN EUGENE, OR**

**From:** Mary Stewart <ml.stewart01@gmail.com>

**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 8:20 AM

**To:** OHSU Board <ohsuboard@ohsu.edu>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The future of public health services in Eugene, OR

To: OHSU Leadership and Members of the Board of Directors:

First, I'd like to applaud your decision to merge with Legacy Systems for the purpose of providing better healthcare to Portland and surrounding communities. This bold action is why I'm writing today.

I have lived and worked in Eugene since 1975 and have often found it difficult to find innovation, up-to-date, quality healthcare. Today, I have a laryngologist in San Francisco, a voice therapist in Portland, potentially an ophthalmologist in Portland, and a general practitioner in Eugene I see very rarely. The simple truth is Eugene doesn't attract and isn't able to retain talented and quality individuals.

While the Peacehealth organization provides medical services, their policies and pay scale are restrictive to many. With a university here that is one of the best on the west coast there are limited opportunities to gain medical experience leading to a medical education, there are few (if any) medical laboratories doing research or testing, and there is a clear lack of sports medicine services and teaching. I would like to see all of this change.

The Washington Peacehealth headquarters has made it known that they are going to mothball the University District hospital. This leaves Eugene without a major hospital, forces patients to travel further to the Riverbend location, and this surely means that doctors who have offices and practices at this location will either relocate to Riverbend or leave Eugene altogether. This action decreases the quality of medical care to Eugene and surrounding communities.

A couple years ago my cat tripped me, I fell hitting my head and received a head wound that required stitches. My neighbor drove me to the ED at the University District hospital, I walked in, and was seen by a marvelous doctor quite quickly. Three stitches, and a few laughs, later I was back at home. The trip there, care provided and back was approximately an hour. It takes 20 minutes just to drive one way to Riverbend, the wait times are longer, and it might be hours before you're back home.

I would like to propose that OHSU has a golden opportunity to expand your programs and bring quality care to Eugene:

1. The opportunity to have a high quality sports medicine program in this area working with the UofO would be a bonus for all local athletes. Those wanting to train in sports medicine could have space to create and build a program that would rival any program at UCLA or UCSD.
2. Students at the UofO are in need of quality medical services.
3. The opportunity for any specialist to be able to see patients, and provide operative services, in this area would mean that fewer would need to travel to Portland, they'd be closer to home, and all of Eugene would benefit from having top tier doctors in this area.
4. The location here could also provide additional space for resident training and teaching possibilities.

These are just a few of the possibilities.

Consider that you wouldn't have to build a hospital. There's quality technical and nursing staff in this area. There are patients who need you and OHSU. There is a community that begs for quality medical care.

Thank you for any consideration you're willing to offer.

Sincerely,

Mary L Stewart

### **WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

On 8/24/23, 11:11 PM, "Kari Powers" <karik\_22@yahoo.com <mailto:karik\_22@yahoo.com>> wrote:

Dear all,

I am a nurse here in portland. I started my nursing career 35 years ago at Legacy Emanuel. I worked there 18years and then have been at Kaiser for 6 years. I have been in pediatrics my whole career.

With the impending acquisition of Legacy, I know there are so many unknowns that the public, myself included, are pondering.

In talking with my close friends who work for both LEH and DCH peds specialty and OHSU center for women's health, we had pondered whether this might be an amazing opportunity for OHSU to create a Women and a children's Hospital campus on the Legacy Emanuel campus! There is more than enough room as for hospital beds and MOB space to house everything from Fetal therapy, Center for Women's health, L&D, Mother baby, NICU and children's hospital. The location in central portland couldn't be better and this move to centralize all women's and children's services would free up much coveted /needed space on the OHSU campus! This would allow for combination of programs rather than maintain 2 of everything, would require fewer specialist, RNs, support staff, etc. Plus this would be a huge statement move for the west coast/region as a premier campus/ program since as far as I know there is not a "free standing" women & children's campus/hospital on the west coast! Seattle children's isn't all encompassing or free standing.

Just our 2 cents.

Excited to see what this future brings.

Thanks for considering.

Kari Powers, BSN, RN

Sent from my iPhone

**MASK MANDATES**

**From:** Ardis Smith <ardis.k.smith@gmail.com>

**Date:** Friday, August 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM

**To:** OHSU Board <ohsuboard@ohsu.edu>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Reinstate Mask Requirements

Hello,

I'm writing to ask for OHSU to reinstate mask requirements in all spaces at OHSU. As COVID numbers are increasing extensively right now, reinstating mask requirements is a data-based decision and will reduce spread and allow patients to access their healthcare. It will also reduce staff absences and help maintain staffing levels. It's a cost-saving and protective measure.

Several hospitals in New York have announced reinstating masks over the last day. US wastewater is presently at similar levels to August 2021, and at those levels, masks were required in healthcare, Oregon put its mask requirements back in place, and the CDC reinstated mask guidance. In lifting masks in April 2023, Oregon said it was because test positivity was below 10%, and it is now at 10.7%.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Best,  
Ardis Smith