## **Health Care Market Oversight**

# Willamette Valley Hospice and Chapters Health System

The <u>Health Care Market Oversight</u> (HCMO) program reviews health care business deals to make sure they support Oregon's goals of health equity, lower costs, increased access, and better care. On January 14, 2025, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) accepted a complete notice of material change describing plans for Willamette Vital Health, Inc. ("WVH") to affiliate with the Chapters Health System ("Chapters").

#### Who's involved?

**WVH** is a nonprofit hospice provider based in West Salem, Oregon. WVH provides hospice services to patients in the mid-Willamette Valley, serving around 1,000 patients each year. Services include hospice care, a foster home for hospice patients, spiritual counseling, art therapy, music therapy, veteran services, grief care, pet placement services, massage therapy, and family caregiver resources.

**Chapters** is a nonprofit provider of hospice and palliative care operating in Florida, Georgia, Virginia, California, Nevada, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. Chapters does not currently serve patients in Oregon. Chapters offers palliative medicine, hospice care, grief services, as well as medical staffing and pharmacy services for hospice providers.

#### About the deal

Through this deal, WVH will affiliate with Chapters, and Chapters will become the sole owner of WVH. WVH states that the deal will not change the level of services provided and will allow WVH to expand hospice and palliative care services throughout their service area. WVH anticipates that the affiliation will help to reduce overhead costs and allow WVH to maintain its current services.

### What's next?

OHA is reviewing this deal to understand how it could affect access to care for communities in Oregon. During the review, OHA will use health care data, news and media reports, information from the entities, and public input to decide whether the deal should be approved. After completing a review, OHA will issue a decision about whether the deal may proceed as planned.

## We want to hear from you!

Public input helps us understand how this deal could help or harm people in your community. To share your thoughts about this deal, please email <a href="https://hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov">hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov</a>, leave a voicemail at 503-945-6161, or <a href="mailto:fill out the public comment form">fill out the public comment form</a>. In your comment, mention "WVH", what you think, and whether you support or oppose the deal.

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