

March 26, 2025

HCO ID:# 3104

Sara Walker
Interim-Superintendent
Oregon State Hospital
2600 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-2682

Dear Dr. Walker:

This letter serves as a follow up to your conversation with Theresa Hendrickson, Vice President of Accreditation and Certification Operations, on March 25, 2025. During this conversation, it was discussed, based on the findings of the for-cause survey conducted on March 24-25, 2025, at Oregon State Hospital, The Joint Commission has decided to preliminarily deny accreditation to your organization.

The Joint Commission finds it necessary to take this action based on the survey observations and findings that identified conditions that pose a serious threat to public or patient health and safety. Specifically, these observations and findings are:

- Failure to provide a safe environment a patient in extended seclusion
- Leadership failed to effectively implement policies and procedures related to patient assessment/re-assessments
- No evidence that the emergency response provided to a patient followed policy and procedure as evidenced by the response was not immediate and the emergency communication process was not followed

Mitigation Strategies:

- Education/training surrounding assessments for falls and post falls completed and will be revisited
- Code blue team was formed along with education and training to staff surrounding responses to codes
- Clinical administration team will have more direct oversight over the clinical care delivered
- Seclusion team was formed-deployed to assess the patient/situation and attempt to discontinue seclusion sooner

When a surveyor identifies any condition in an accredited organization that poses a serious threat to public or patient/resident safety, the President of The Joint Commission is authorized to make a decision to preliminarily deny accreditation and to promptly notify the organization's chief executive officer, as well as governmental authorities having jurisdiction over the organization. This procedure is in accordance with the General Administrative Policies and Procedures of The Joint Commission, as outlined in the current *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*.

Your organization was able state what interim safety measures were to immediately be implemented to abate the risk to patients (for example, cease performing a certain procedure, implement additional safety measures).

The Joint Commission will conduct an abatement survey to validate that the Immediate Threat to Health or Safety has been eliminated. If the abatement survey confirms the absence of the Immediate Threat to Health or Safety situation, The Joint Commission will remove the Preliminary Denial of Accreditation decision (assuming there are no other reasons for the Preliminary Denial of Accreditation). Therefore, the

sooner your organization eliminates the Immediate Threat to Health or Safety situation, the shorter the period of time your organization will be in Preliminary Denial of Accreditation.

Upon resolution of an Immediate Threat to Health or Safety situation, your organization's accreditation status may change from Preliminary Denial of Accreditation to Accreditation with Follow-up Survey and remain as such until a follow-up survey is conducted to assess the organization's sustained implementation of appropriate corrective actions.

A draft copy of your organization's survey findings will be sent to you shortly. Oregon State Hospital has the option to clarify the findings from your survey *except those related to the immediate threat to life situation*.

If you have any questions about this notification, please contact Elizabeth Even. She can be reached at (630) 792-5358.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Grubbs', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ken Grubbs, DNP, MBA, RN
Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer
Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations