



Matt Gilman, MPPA
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

July 23, 2023

Dear Mr. Gilman:

I am board certified in internal medicine and serve as the Hospitalist Medical Director for both PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Riverbend and PeaceHealth Sacred Heart University District. As a hospitalist, I manage the clinical problems of acutely ill hospitalized patients and support the care team in transition planning. Today, acute rehabilitation plays a pivotal role in our discharge planning for a select patient conditions as it provides the greatest opportunity for them to optimize functional recovery and achieve the greatest degree independence possible. However, the space in the current Oregon Rehabilitation Center is insufficient in a number of ways, and I understand it is also cost prohibitive to update.

Compounding the issue of the dated and undersized ORC, state data documents a significant increase in the average length of stay (ALOS) for acute care patients with a discharge to post-acute care over the past few years. The ALOS for residents of the Service Area was historically about 4.2 days. By 2021 it had increased to 4.7. in 2022 it approached 4.9: an increase of more than 16%. A 2023 report concluded that the inability to discharge patients to post-acute settings has played a significant role in the high and increasing statewide acute care ALOS; and for those of us providing hospitalist care, it means that higher occupancies make it more challenging to admit and discharges as medically indicated.

Please approve the replacement of the current ORC with a new, larger state-of-the-art IRF. It will provide more acute rehabilitative capacity for our growing region, and, importantly, it will support the efficient delivery of acute care hospital services by mitigating barriers to admission and discharge.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter and share my support for the new hospital proposal.

541-222-7300
peacehealth.org

3333 RiverBend Dr.
Springfield, OR 97477


Geetha Gangi, MD