

October 14, 2024

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 E. 8th Ave
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Chair Trieger and Members of the Lane County Board of Commissioners,

The University of Oregon strongly supports the public-private partnership PeaceHealth Medical Center proposes to build a new Behavioral Health Hospital. This initiative represents a critical step forward in addressing the growing mental health needs of our community. We urge you to approve and prioritize this partnership.

Lane County has a significant mental health crisis. The lack of adequate facilities and resources to support individuals experiencing behavioral health crises has resulted in increased pressure on emergency rooms, law enforcement, and other public services, which are not well equipped to address the complexities of mental health emergencies. The proposed Behavioral Health Stabilization Center, coupled with a co-located inpatient facility, would provide a much-needed dedicated space for individuals to receive the care and treatment they need in a supportive and specialized environment.

PeaceHealth's commitment to this partnership underscores the importance of collaboration between public and private entities to achieve meaningful progress in our healthcare system. The University of Oregon, Lane County Behavioral Health and PeaceHealth have enjoyed a close working relationship for many years. PeaceHealth's current Behavioral Health inpatient facility is adjacent to our main campus and Lane County's Behavioral Health Campus is adjacent to our Athletics Campus. We are happy to share that very few incidents have needed our attention. When events have occurred, both PeaceHealth and Lane County have responded quickly, efficiently and appropriately. We believe that both Lane County Behavioral Health and PeaceHealth will ensure that facilities are appropriately staffed with experienced professionals who can offer comprehensive care to those in need.

By supporting this facility, Lane County will not only improve outcomes for individuals experiencing mental health crises, but also contribute to long-term public safety, reduce the burden on emergency services, and foster a healthier and more resilient community.

We believe this is a transformative opportunity for Lane County, and we hope that you will take the necessary steps to move this project forward. Thank you for your consideration, and for your continued commitment to improving the well-being of all Lane County residents.

Sincerely,

Andre LeDuc, Vice President & Chief Resilience Officer
Matt Roberts, Associate Vice President for Community Relations



