Written Testimony and Letters Supporting Certificate of Need for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Presented by:
Richard V. Stenson, FACHE, FACMPE
October 15, 2019
October 15, 2019

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover,

I was president and CEO of Tuality Healthcare in Hillsboro for 22 years, where I continue to serve on two of its boards. Previously I had been Associate Administrator, and later Administrator, of Straub Clinic & Hospital and Straub Health Plan in Honolulu for 17 years. In my early career I worked in administration at Ochsner Clinic & Hospital in New Orleans and Health Maintenance Inc. in San Francisco. I have masters degrees in health care and business administration and am a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the American College of Medical Practice Executives. While working in Hawaii I was appointed by Governor George Ariyoshi to serve as the hospital representative on the State Health Planning and Development Agency’s Certificate of Need Review Panel, which had to approve all proposed health care capital projects and costly new service programs covered by CoN. Based on my service on that committee, I have an appreciation for the challenges you face in weighing these decisions of cost versus benefit that are so important to providing quality community health services.

Encompass requested that I work with it regarding its Certificate of Need application for Oregon’s first free-standing acute rehabilitation hospital because of my experience in being the CEO of an acute care hospital system in Washington County (Tuality Healthcare), and because I am a resident of the community (Forest Grove), and have a good appreciation for the unmet health care needs in the area. In my work on this Encompass Certificate of Need application, I have been impressed with the company and its executives, and especially the excellent rehabilitation treatment their facilities provide to patients around the country. I have visited an Encompass rehabilitation hospital, the MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital in Overland Park, Kansas, and witnessed firsthand the intensive acute rehabilitation hospital treatment which the Encompass hospitals provide. I believe Oregon should approve the proposed Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital for Hillsboro because it is a much-needed service that will greatly improve accessibility to acute rehab and patient outcomes, especially for residents of Washington County. Further, I believe the new facility will have a negligible effect on existing skilled nursing rehabilitation services. Below, I will share the letters of over two dozen individuals who also feel this is a needed service in our area.

Before I do, I would like to review some of the most compelling information substantiating the need for this project.
First, with all due respect to the fine care provided by our skilled nursing facilities, we are speaking of two different levels of rehabilitation treatment. This is due in large part to the limited professional staffing and other resources SNFs can provide with the lower reimbursement they are paid by Medicare and other insurers. In short, Medicare and other insurers pay more for this intensive therapeutic care in an acute rehab hospital, with the required higher levels of physician and licensed professional staffing, and other services commensurate with an acute hospital setting. Regrettably, only a very small portion of patients can clinically qualify for IRF admissions. They must have an allowed diagnosis and be able to tolerate and benefit from a minimum of three hours of daily intensive therapy. But when they do clinically qualify for an IRF admission, the outcomes are exceptional. The Encompass slides summarized excerpts from CMS’s Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MedPAC) March 2017 report in which it noted that for similar acute hospital discharge diagnoses of patients requiring inpatient rehabilitation that inpatient rehabilitation hospitals had an average length of stay of 12.7 days versus nursing homes 38.4 days. Further, the IRF patients were discharged back to the community 76% of the time versus the nursing home patients only 40% of the time. It’s all about being able to provide intensive therapeutic resources.

Second, to this very point of dramatic differences in outcomes for similar patients treated at IRFs versus SNFs, the American Heart Association-American Stroke Association published Guidelines for Adult Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery states, “Whenever possible, the American Stroke Association strongly recommends that stroke patients be treated at an inpatient rehabilitation facility rather than a skilled nursing facility”. This was included in the Encompass slides.

Third, despite years of research showing the significantly better outcomes for certain rehabilitation diagnoses in IRFs versus SNFs, Oregon is ranked 50th in acute rehab beds with just 0.19 beds per 1,000 population over the age of 65, versus a U.S. high of 1.79 beds (nearly 10 times greater), and U.S. average of 0.74 (nearly four times greater) beds per 1,000 population over age 65. This deficiency in appropriate use of available and accessible IRF beds in Oregon not surprisingly ranks us again last in the country for the percentage of Medicare rehab discharges as a percentage of Medicare acute discharges: barely 1% for Oregon, and slightly less for the tri-county area, versus a national average of 3.83% and high of 9%. We are simply not doing the best we can for our residents needing acute rehabilitation care. These statistics can also be seen in the Encompass slides.

Fourth, despite the understandable anxiety of existing skilled nursing providers, an analysis of 10 different geographic markets’ SNF utilization before and after the opening of an acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital found virtually no impact on the SNFs. In fact, they quite often refer patients to each other when appropriate. I have attached this graph as page 6.

Below I list the names of the individuals who are knowledgeable in this field, or have reviewed the data and other information about the benefits of acute inpatient rehabilitation and believe as I do, that we need to move forward with approving more IRF beds. Their letters are also attached here for you to read in detail.
The list of individuals includes physicians specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and other specialties; rehab patients and patient advocacy organizations; elected officials familiar with Oregon’s health services and local planning; and community leaders. We have been fortunate to hear from a few of them personally at the public meeting today. The entire list and their letters, in alphabetical order and attached are from:

1. Ann Barr-Gillespie, DPT, PhD, Vice Provost and Executive Dean, Pacific University College of Health Professions, page 7.

2. Martin Nicholas Bomalaski, MD, Board Certified in Physical Medicine & Rehab and Brian Injury Medicine, page 9.


4. Bernie and Mary Brown, stroke patient (Bernie) and former Chief Nursing Officer (Mary) of Tuality Healthcare, page 11.

5. David Buuck, MD, Medical Director, Tuality Orthopedic, Sports, Spine and Rehabilitation Center, Hillsboro Hops Team Physician, page 13.

6. Kevin K. Chui, PT, DPT, PhD, Board Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist, Board Certified Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist, Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults, Fellow of American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists, Director and Professor, School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, College of Health Professions, Pacific University, page 15.


8. Eric Ensrud, MD, Associate Professor, OHSU Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, Board-certified in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation/EMG/Neurology/Neuromuscular Medicine, page 18.


   (also signing same letter)  
   Janeen Hull, Dean of Allied Health, Emergency & Legal Services, PCC  
   Sheila Meserschmidt, Program Director, Institute for Health Professions, PCC  
   Karen Sanders, Dean of Health Professions, PCC


18. Richard A. Rutt, PhD, PT, Professor Emeritus, Pacific University, page 32.

19. Mjere Simantel, MSW, Program Supervisor, DAVS (Disability, Aging, and Veterans Services); and Director, AAA (Area Agency on Aging), Washington County, page 34.

20. Roger Smith, MD, Board Certified in Internal Medicine, page 35.


22. Sherry Stock, ABD/PhD, MS CBIST, Executive Director – NeuroGerontologist, Brian Injury Alliance of Oregon, page 37; also testifying from BIAOR, Carol Altman, Traumatic Brain Injury home operator, and BIAOR Treasurer.

23. Bob Terry, former Washington County Commissioner (testimony only)


25. John A. White, Jr., OTR/L, PhD, FAOTA, Professor, School of Occupational Therapy, Pacific University, page 39.

26. Fred Williams, Jr., MD, Board Certified in Neurosurgery, past Chief of Staff, Tuality Community Hospital; past president Oregon Neurosurgical Society; immediate past-President, Oregon Medical Association, page 41.

27. Daniel S. Wright, DC, Spine Care Chiropractic, page 43.

28. Glen Zielinski, DC, DACNB, FACFN, CBIS, Board Certified Chiropractic Neurologist, Certified Brain Injury Specialist, Fellow of the American College of Functional Neurology, page 44.
I would like to close my remarks in support of the Encompass Certificate of Need application with quotes from three of these letters written by physicians specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

First from Dr. Bornalaski: "I am currently responsible for a 17 bed IRF (Eugene), which cares for patients with a mix of stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal chord injury, polytrauma, amputees, and other disabling injuries and diseases...This type of environment maximizes the functional recovery and chances of returning to a home environment with greater independence, as compared to other environments such as skilled nursing facilities...Since moving to Portland in 2018, I’ve been surprised and disappointed at the lack of inpatient rehab beds available. In comparison to other similar sized metro areas, Portland lags far behind in providing access to this crucial service."

And from Dr. Ensrud at OHSU: "Oregonians who cannot access acute rehab level services are getting inadequate rehab care that results in excessive disability. This does not allow these persons to fully participate in Oregon to the greatest extent of their potential."

And from Dr. Pagel, Medical Director of the VA inpatient rehab facility in Vancouver, Washington: "Throughout my years practicing here I have concluded that, in general, Portland should take pride in the high quality of medical services available however, I have been impressed by the lack of high intensity inpatient rehabilitation in the metropolitan area. The inpatient rehabilitation units in the Portland area do a fine job with the patients they care for. These units are all centrally located and the number of beds available for admission are limited. For these reasons physicians and families routinely choose to place patients who would benefit from high intensity rehabilitation in Skilled Nursing Facilities where only lower intensity rehabilitation is available. A new acute inpatient rehabilitation facility on the westside of metropolitan Portland would greatly benefit the residents of Washington County who sustain catastrophic neurological or musculoskeletal injury."

Thank you for taking the time to consider all the community support for a free standing acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Hillsboro. In my experience and professional opinion, it is well justified and long overdue.

Sincerely,

Richard V. Stenson, FACHE, FACMPE
4872 NW Plum Hill Lane
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116
SNF Utilization in Encompass Health Markets
Before and After EHC IRF Opens

Note: Circle represents when Encompass Health opened hospital.
June 25, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

I am writing to express my support for Encompass's (previously known as HealthSouth) Certificate of Need application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland, Oregon area. In my role as the Vice Provost and Executive Dean of the College of Health Professions at Pacific University, I am responsible for 14 academic programs in 8 health professions disciplines, including many that are integral to successful inpatient rehabilitation patient outcomes. Our programs in the College of Health Professions include athletic training, audiology, clinical psychology, dental hygiene, health care administration, gerontology, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, and physician assistant. In our other four colleges, Pacific University also has graduate and professional programs in business, optometry, public health, social work, speech-language pathology and music therapy. We enroll over 2,000 graduate and professional students annually in these programs, and Pacific is well known for its graduates that are prepared for practice as members of highly collaborative, interprofessional teams.

All our health professions students must complete clinical practical experiences as part of their formal training, and placements in inpatient rehabilitation settings are in short supply in our area. Therefore, our academic programs could benefit from a free-standing inpatient rehabilitation hospital in the Greater Portland area. Such a facility would also provide career opportunities for our graduates in this specialized area of practice. Finally, our academic programs frequently draw upon the knowledge of practicing professionals to teach as adjunct faculty in our academic programs, which provides our students with a rich educational experience and clinicians with the opportunity to stay current in their practice. Again, the close proximity of a full-service inpatient rehabilitation facility to our academic programs would add access to education and practical training that we do not currently have available.

I have contacted colleagues with experience in placing students at Encompass facilities, and they describe a high quality and intensive learning experience that is an excellent opportunity for students. In addition, my review of the company’s website indicates that the executive team is
highly representative of the health professions that comprise the Encompass workforce, including many of the professions represented in our programs.

For these reasons, I hope you will seriously consider the granting of a Certificate of Need to Encompass for an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland area. It would be a welcome addition to the practical clinical preparation of Pacific health professions students, an opportunity for collaboration between our faculty and staff, career opportunities for graduates from our programs, and would provide a much needed service to patients in our area, as such a hospital does not exist in this region.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ann E. Barr-Gillespie, DPT, PhD
Vice Provost and Executive Dean
Barr-gillespie@pacificu.ed
August 7, 2019

Dana S Selover, MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

My name is Nick Bomalaski, and I'm a physiatrist specializing in acquired brain injury rehabilitation. I am writing to express my support for Encompass Health's Certificate of Need application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland, Oregon area. In my role as a physician at the Oregon Rehab Center in Eugene, I am currently responsible for a 17 bed IRF, which cares for patients with a mix of stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, polytrauma, amputees, and other disabling injuries and diseases. My belief in the importance of inpatient rehab has been further shaped by my experiences at the University of Michigan and University of Washington. Inpatient rehab provides a unique opportunity for patients with severe disabilities and often complex medical conditions to receive high intensity therapies and daily supervision from a physician and rehab nursing. This type of environment maximizes functional recovery and chances of returning to a home environment with greater independence, as compared to other environments such as skilled nursing facilities.

Since moving to Portland in 2018, I’ve been surprised and disappointed at the lack of inpatient rehab beds available. In comparison to other similar sized metro areas, Portland lags far behind in providing access to this crucial service. My intuition turns out to be backed up by statistics showing that Oregon ranks last in the nation in terms of the percentage of potentially IRF eligible patients who are discharged to this level of care (3.0% OR v 5.6% WA v 8.8% ID v 9.9% nationally). This is unacceptable and should be a point of concern for healthcare providers and community members alike. However, in reaching out to various healthcare/hospital systems in our region, I’ve found a discouraging lack of interest to remedy this situation. I can’t help but wonder where all the patients that would be receiving inpatient rehab in other parts of the country are ending up in the Portland area. My fear is that they are relegated to nursing homes or remaining in hospitals where they are not receiving the level of rehab they need to optimize functional recovery and independence. There is surely a toll to be paid for the overall quality of life of those in our community who are denied access to inpatient rehab.

For these reasons, I hope you can understand the importance and urgency in granting a Certificate of Need to Encompass Health to build Oregon’s first free-standing rehab hospital. A project such as this is long overdue, and will bring Oregon closer to fulfilling its responsibilities to its citizens recovering from debilitating diseases and injuries.

Sincerely,

Martin Nicholas Bomalaski MD
Locums Medical Director
Oregon Rehabilitation Center
Board Certified in PM&R and Brain Injury Medicine
bomalaski@gmail.com
(206)422-4496
Hi, Dick,

I am currently in Juneau, AK, 2 weeks into a six week motor home tour of the state and won't be home until early August. I have no access to a real computer or any printer in the meantime.

I do feel that such a facility would be a significant and welcome addition to the currently available rehab options. I've had many patients over the years I suspect would have improved more quickly had such a facility been available. My own father spent time in such a facility in Reno after a hip fracture and I was impressed with the effectiveness of their multidisciplinary approach to rehab.

Please feel free to use this email in support of the project, but it's the best I can do at the moment.

All the best,

Marilyn J Booth, MD (retired)
August 26, 2019

475 NE Hillwood Drive
Hillsboro Oregon, 97124

Dear Dr. Selover,

We support the Encompass Certificate of Need (CON) for a new, free-standing acute hospital specializing only in rehabilitation to be built in Hillsboro.

Dick Stenson asked that we consider writing a letter supporting this project and are happy to do so in light of our recent and ongoing experience with stroke.

On May 31, 2019 Bernie had a stroke and spent four days in Tuality Hospital after which he was transferred to Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center, Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon (RIO). He was discharged June 20th.

If excellence, professionalism, and compassion from the RIO staff were the only indicators for considering another inpatient rehabilitation center in the greater Portland metropolitan area we would not be writing in support of an additional facility.

There is no doubt that the people who provide the direct services are the most important component and they are the reason why RIO has a stellar reputation. It is certainly not the facility itself which is difficult to get to and suffers many challenges related to design and the age of the structure.

By way of background we are both retired. Bernie worked for David Evans and Associates (DEA) where he did complex property appraisals and cost analysis for major infrastructure and transportation projects. Prior to that he was managing commercial properties in New Zealand.

Mary worked for Dick at Tuality and was the chief nurse executive before retiring in 2007. Prior to that she held similar positions in Humana Hospitals and was involved in the startup of their insurance division.

We know that you will get lots of business-oriented data so we will focus on what is most important – the patient experience.

But first we want to point out that Hillsboro has over 100,000 residents not including the neighboring cities of Beaverton, Forest Grove, and Cornelius. The unincorporated urban areas are also having increased population growth.

Hillsboro is also the hub of Oregon’s silicon forest – high tech and manufacturing and supporting businesses.
Reasons to have another acute care rehabilitation facility.

Location, location, location.
The commute from the westside is brutal. Thanks to Google maps we know every route to and from Portland facilities. Ease of access is the primary reason why we are supporting another acute rehabilitation facility.

Access to acute rehabilitation care.
Once basic survival was established our greatest anxiety was rehabilitation. We talked about RIO being the closest and best place to go but there was no assurance that there would be a bed available when Bernie was to be discharged from Tuality. Thankfully all the physicians and therapy staff at Tuality recommended RIO.

Without offense to skilled nursing facilities (SNF) we had personal experience with the type of services available.

Mary's brother, who lives in Minnesota had a stroke in late January and he was the perfect candidate for acute care rehabilitation. However, he was sent to a SNF rehabilitation unit. Chief among his complaints was how little rehabilitation he actually received over a much longer length of stay. Being bored and discouraged was a problem for him.

Bernie on the other hand had therapy sessions scheduled throughout the workweek and sometimes on weekends. To visit Bernie, one had to be there at mealtimes or participating in the therapy session.

Access to outpatient care
We have Kaiser insurance therefore we receive outpatient care via their network of services.

Initially the commuting was more of the same but in this case to a Kaiser facility that could provide a timely appointment. It didn't take too long before all the outpatient work, with a couple of exceptions for super specialists, was available with time to spare in less than 30 minutes.

In conclusion we support another acute care rehabilitation facility that will serve the needs of patients locally and from outlying areas especially to the west of Hillsboro.

Sincerely,

Bernie and Mary Brown
July 8, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation and Quality
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Re: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover,

I am writing in support for Encompass’s proposal for a comprehensive rehabilitation hospital here in Oregon. I have been an orthopaedic surgeon in the greater westside Portland area for the last 24 years. I am currently the medical director for my seven man orthopaedic and physical medicine group. I have been on the staff at Tuality Hospital here in Hillsboro throughout these years. I have had the unfortunate opportunity over the years to see the drop off in quality for rehabilitation services in my area.

I am on active staff at my hospital which means I have to take emergency room call. This involves taking care of many types of fractures. Specifically, I deal with a lot of hip fractures in the elderly. I also do quite a few knee replacements. Several years ago, we had the luxury of having the ability to transfer our orthopaedic inpatients to the skilled nursing facility within the hospital. That allowed my patients to be seen by the physical therapists at least once, if not twice a day. Once this wing closed, we had to send our patients out to the random local skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities in the area. These are not geared for optimal comprehensive rehabilitation and the care has been uneven. For me personally, the rehabilitation is just not as good at these places. In talking to my patients who have been in these facilities, the therapists sometimes do not see them regularly, don’t push the patients for maximal progress, sometimes don’t come at all. Therapy is critical in my post-op total knee and fracture patients to regain range of motion soon after surgery. They cannot get this back at a later date. The first two weeks are critical for the need
for aggressive, frequent physical therapy.

I feel my patients would do much better if we had a place on the westside of Portland that was a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary facility for these post-surgical patients. Once the surgery is done, I become somewhat of a cheerleader for my patients, encouraging them in the office to work on range of motion and strength. That said, it is the therapists at the facilities that are doing the actual post-op work with the patients that help make the surgery and outcome successful. These patients often come with co-morbidities that would be better treated at a facility with a multi-disciplinary approach that would include physical therapy, nutrition evaluation, possible neurologic evaluation and other modalities as needed.

For all of the reasons listed above, I would hope you would grant a Certificate of Need to Encompass for an independent acute comprehensive rehabilitation hospital in the greater Portland area. It would provide an upgrade in rehabilitation services in my area that I would definitely use. This type of proposed facility does not exist in my area currently.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David A. Buuck, MD
Medical Director
Tuality Orthopedic, Sports, Spine and Rehabilitation Center
Hillsboro, Oregon
Hillsboro Hops Team Physician, Arizona Diamondbacks affiliate
10/8/19

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Please consider my support for the Certificate of Need application from Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon. As the Director of the School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training, and the Interim Director of the School of Occupational Therapy, I represent the perspective of programs that help to fill the national shortage of health professionals, in particular those that serve patients in need of rehabilitation. In addition, as a resident of Hillsboro, I represent a local voice that recognizes the emerging healthcare needs of our community. Below is a summary of reasons that I offer my enthusiastic support for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital in Hillsboro.

As an administrator at Pacific University, our health professions require full-time clinical education opportunities for our students. These clinical education partnerships serve both parties – the host (Encompass) can use this opportunity to recruit new employees and Pacific can use this opportunity to meet the educational needs of our curriculum and accrediting bodies. In addition, there are numerous opportunities such as research, teaching and continuing education opportunities for Encompass employees, joint program development, and service opportunities, among others. For these reasons we are excited about a new rehabilitation hospital in our community.

As a resident of Hillsboro, I see the population both growing and aging, especially with the addition of ~30,000 residents in “Hillsboro South” in the near future. For current and future residents in Hillsboro and neighboring towns, adding Encompass will increase access to rehabilitation options to those west of Portland. In addition, given the reputation of Encompass, patients will have increased access to a provider with an outstanding reputation for patient care and patient outcomes.
For the reasons noted above, I offer my enthusiastic support for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital in Hillsboro. As an administrator at Pacific University and resident of Hillsboro, adding Encompass to our community will meet many of our educational and healthcare needs. I hope that you will consider granting Encompass a Certificate of Need. Please contact me at your convenience if you require additional information in support of their application.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Kevin K. Chui, PT, DPT, PhD
Board Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Board Certified Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults
Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists

Director & Professor, School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training
Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, College of Health Professions
Pacific University
222 SE 8th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Office: (503) 352-7377; Fax: (503) 352-7340; E-mail: chui@pacificu.edu

The faculty and staff of the College of Health Professions strive to inspire our students to think, care, create and pursue justice in our world.
John M. Coletti, Jr. MD
1651 NE Orenco Station Parkway
illsboro, Oregon 97124

Dana S Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 972342

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital

Dear Dr. Selover

This letter is sent as a voice for support for Encompass’s CON as an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the Portland area. As an Orthopedic Surgeon I have had experience with many patients who have undergone major surgical procedures for both reconstructive and traumatic issues. Many have need of post hospital care for improvement of function. Physical therapy and close follow up for complex medical issues is typically required for return to independent living. Of these many are elderly with multiple medical issues often requiring a lengthy rehabilitation process.

The model of care outlined by Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital brings services in house to include Internists, Psychiatrists, Physical Therapists, and even Radiology not typically available where many patients are placed for rehabilitation and thereby shortening length of stay. My experience is such that I find care quite variable in terms of length of stay.

The availability of rehabilitation facilities with such a comprehensive care model is limited in the greater Portland area. I hope you will give serious consideration to Encompass’s request for a CON.

Sincerely,

John M. Coletti, MD,FACS
January 25, 2019

Dana S Selover, MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

I am writing to express my support for Encompass's Certificate of Need application to build an inpatient rehabilitation hospital/facility (IRF) in the greater Portland, Oregon area. In my role as Associate Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at OHSU, I am responsible for education in rehabilitation medicine for OHSU medical students and orthopedic residents.

Acute level rehabilitation in an IRF, providing three hours of intensive physical/occupational/speech therapies per day, is associated with markedly improved outcomes compared with less intensive subacute nursing facilities (SNF) in many acute disabling illnesses, including lowering the rate of death after a stroke by over 29% in the first two years following the stroke. Oregon has 1/3 the average US number of per capita acute rehab/IRF beds and subsequently less than 1/3 of Oregon patients are discharged to the IRF level of appropriate and life/function saving rehab therapy. I have somewhat unique extensive experience working in both the acute care setting as a neurologist and the acute rehab setting as a physiatrist, which has resulted in me realizing fully the markedly improved outcomes patients can obtain with acute level rehabilitation after devastating neurologic and orthopedic events. This has been clear in my work in both the Spaulding/Harvard system in Boston and the St. Luke's/Providence system in Spokane.

Oregonians who cannot access acute rehab level services are getting inadequate rehab care that results in excessive disability. This does not allow these persons to fully participate in Oregon to the greatest extent of their potential.

Encompass Health is a well-recognized and respected provider of acute level inpatient rehabilitation throughout the U. S. Their proposed new hospital in Hillsboro would be a great asset for the residents of Portland and wider Oregon, and would be a great step in expanding access to appropriate and effective acute level rehab services.

For the reasons stated above, I hope you will seriously consider the granting of a Certificate of Need to Encompass for a free-standing inpatient rehabilitation hospital to provide greater access to acute level rehabilitation.

Most Sincerely,

[Signature]

Erik Ensrud, M.D.
Associate Professor
OHSU Orthopedics and Rehabilitation
Board-certified in PM&R/EMG/Neurology/Neuromuscular Medicine
RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

I am writing to express my support for Encompass's (previously known as HealthSouth) Certificate of Need application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland, Oregon area. In my role as Primary Care Physician and Practice Medical Director, I am responsible for primary care to my panel of patients and leadership of a team of physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

Our current system in Oregon cares for patients needing rehab after hospitalization in skilled nursing facilities. From the 2016 Medicare claims data that I have reviewed, Oregon has the lowest percentage of patients entering inpatient rehab. In my busy family practice I rarely work with patients who were at one of the few inpatient rehab facilities in Portland. When I do I am always impressed at the results and I wish that more of my patients were able to enter one of these facilities. The teams at the skilled nursing facilities are dedicated and work hard but do not have the same level of resources that our patients get from an inpatient rehab facility.

In my care of patients in the outpatient primary care setting we see the benefits of intensive physical, occupational, and speech therapies that results in lower length of stay, improved functionality, returning faster to activities of daily living. CMS data that I have reviewed shows inpatient rehab facilities get lower ED visit usage, shorter time to return home and lower mortality when compared with SNF’s.

I fully support the need for a CIPR hospital in this region and urge the Oregon’s Public Health Division to approve HealthSouth’s CON application. The fact that HealthSouth accepts all insurances, and furthermore will accept unfunded patients as part of their mission, offers the option of CIPR to the people in more rural and less well-to-do counties in the service area who would otherwise have no access to this level of care whatsoever.

Sincerely,

Timothy J Gray II DO, MBA
Medical Director/Family Physician
Mountain View Medical Center
August 29, 2019

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care
Regulation and Quality
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Re: CON for Encompass Health
Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon,
LLC.

Dear Dr. Selover;

I am writing to support Encompass's proposal for a comprehensive rehabilitation hospital here in Oregon. As a former Mayor of Hillsboro and a former President of the regional government (Metro) I have spent many years worrying about the economic and physical health of our region. I am interested, therefore, in the statistics that show that patients who have these types of services available to them are twice as likely to be
successfully returned to the community and, on average, in 1/3 the time as patients who are served by other types of facilities.

As a person over the age of 65, I am clearly in the age group most likely to need these services. I am, therefore, concerned that Oregon ranks last of 6 the 50 states for both the percentage potentially rehab appropriate patients discharged to impatient rehabilitation and the number of rehab beds per 1000 population over 65. This proposal would seem to fill an important gap in the health care service delivery system for the state.

For these reasons, I would urge you to grant a Certificate of Need to Encompass for an independent acute comprehensive rehabilitation hospital in the greater Portland Metropolitan area.

SINCERELY,

TOM HUGHES
2722 SE HOLLYHOCK CT
HILLSBORO, OREGON 97123
Happie Heads LLC
9/18/2018

Dear Dr. Selover,

I am writing this letter in support of the building of an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Portland, OR. I support Encompass’s Certificate of Need application to such a facility. As a resident of the west side suburb of Hillsboro, Oregon, and a brain injury survivor, I understand the need of more rehabilitation beds in Hillsboro, and the entire Portland area.

Since I received my brain injury out of state, most of my acute rehab occurred outside of Portland. Although I cannot speak of direct personal experience with the inadequacies with the current rehab opportunities in Portland, I can speak of its impact on the survivors in my community. I run a podcast for brain injury survivors, and run several brain injury support groups in the Portland area, and have seen first hand how Portland’s lack of rehab facilities has impacted their recoveries.

One young man I know well was treated in RIO at Legacy’s Good Samaritan Hospital for several days after his recovery, and received excellent care. Unfortunately, due to the extent of his injury, a few days was not sufficient to fully prepare him to be discharged. He was sent to a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), and his condition slowly worsened due to a lack of resources at the SNF. If he had a longer stay at RIO or another facility equipped to handle his case, he would have recovered more fully and more rapidly. This is just one example of the dearth of appropriate rehab facilities for brain injury survivors in Portland, and I believe an Encompass Inpatient Rehab Hospital would provide support to countless lives.

I can only speak of the brain injury world, but I can say with complete certainty that your granting of a Certificate of Need would be a crucial step in providing life altering care for hundreds of brain injury survivors in the greater Portland area, and potential the entirety of the state.

Sincerely,

Michael Jensen
503-804-4841
10697 NW Valley Vista Road Hillsboro, OR, 97124
Founder of Happie Heads LLC

[Signature]
August 7, 2018

Mr. G Selover, MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

I am writing to express my support for Encompass Health’s (previously known as HealthSouth) certificate of need application to build an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in the Greater Portland area. As President and CEO of Greater Portland Inc, the region’s public-private partnership dedicated to bringing jobs and investment to the region, I feel it is critical our region provides high-quality care for its seniors.

As you know, our region’s population has grown by hundreds of thousands in the last several years. And as our region’s Baby Boomers age, the demand for healthcare facilities that serve them is growing. According to U.S. Census data, the percentage of Washington County residents age 65 and over has risen from 10 percent in 2010 to 13 percent in 2017.

There is a true need for more rehabilitation facilities in our region, especially for inpatient facilities. While two such facilities currently operate in the market, there are no freestanding inpatient rehabilitation hospitals serving this part of the region. Our region’s residents deserve to have a high-quality inpatient facility close to home.

This proposed facility will not just increase the quality of life for our aging neighbors and their families, but boost our economy. In addition to Encompass Health’s initial investment for the land and construction of the facility, this project will bring in construction jobs and local tax revenue. Most critically, the proposed hospital will add about 100 high-paying medical jobs upon opening, increasing to about 160 jobs over a five-year period.

This project is a win-win for our region: It will improve quality of life for our senior residents while adding jobs and opportunities for our workforce. For these reasons, I urge you to seriously consider granting a certificate of need to Encompass Health for an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in the Greater Portland area.

Sincerely,

Janet LaBar
President and CEO
Greater Portland Inc
September 25, 2018

Dana S Selover, MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland OR, 97232

Re: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

I have been a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician in Oregon for the past 25 years practicing in the Portland metropolitan area. In my role as a senior physician leader I am responsible for a department of 60+ rehabilitation clinicians including physicians, therapists, nurses, etc. I oversee a robust outpatient service, acute inpatient service and 21 bed CARF accredited rehabilitation unit.

Throughout my years practicing here I have concluded that, in general, Portland should take pride in the high quality of medical services available however, I have been impressed by the lack of high intensity inpatient rehabilitation in the metropolitan area. The inpatient rehabilitation units in the Portland area do a fine job with the patients they care for. These units are all centrally located and the number of beds available for admission are limited. For these reasons physicians and families routinely choose to place patients who would benefit from high intensity rehabilitation in Skilled Nursing Facilities where only lower intensity rehabilitation is available. A new acute inpatient rehabilitation facility on the westside of metropolitan Portland would greatly benefit the residents of Washington County who sustain catastrophic neurologic or musculoskeletal injury. It would allow patients to receive high quality rehabilitation close to their families and allow local clinicians to provide continuity of care for their patients.

The rehabilitation literature is clear regarding the benefit of high intensity rehabilitation for select patients. There is limited availability of high intensity rehabilitation available on the westside of Portland. For these reasons, the state of Oregon should consider approving a Certificate of Need for an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington County.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Keith Pagel, MD
August 26, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce represents more than 800 businesses and 50,000 employees in the Hillsboro area. The Hillsboro Chamber would like to express its support for Emcompass’ (previously known as HealthSouth) Certificate of Need application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland, Oregon area.

The Hillsboro Chamber is the voice of the business community and as such we know and understand the need for this type of facility in our area. Patients currently must travel long distances for these types of advanced state of the art technologies in acute patient rehabilitation care.

We hope you will seriously consider the granting of the Certificate of Need to Encompass for an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland area. It would provide a much needed service to patients as well as to the larger community, as such as hospital does not exist currently in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deanna Palm
President
Dana S Selover, MD MPH  
Section Manager  
Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement  
Public Health Division  
800 NE Oregon Street  
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

We are writing to express our support for Encompass's (previously known as HealthSouth) Certificate of Need application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland, OR area. In our roles as educational administrators at Portland Community College, we are responsible for supporting instructional learning opportunities for students in on campus and off campus environments. A new rehabilitation hospital in the greater Portland, OR area would provide clinical opportunities for our students pursuing career pathways in many of our Healthcare programs.

Since the 1970's, Portland Community College has played an integral role in training the Portland, OR metropolitan area healthcare workforce. We have 18 healthcare programs and/or certificates representing a range of healthcare training. We spend approximately $7.5 million annually to fund our healthcare programs. We graduate approximately 1000 students that enter the healthcare workforce annually. A new Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital would provide a clinical location for many of our students to learn and train, some of which may become future employees of Encompass Health. An opportunity that is vital to our students completing their training and certifications in the nation's number one workforce area - healthcare.

An Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital would provide students a unique and specialized care environment focusing on physical, occupational and speech therapies. Other facilities such as nursing homes do not focus on improved functionality, helping patients return to quality of life activities and restored functionality. Students don’t have opportunities to practice skills in facilities that are focused on patient care from a restorative health and wellness perspective.

For these reasons, I hope you will seriously consider the granting of a Certificate of Need to Encompass for an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland area. It would provide a much needed service to patients in the greater Portland, OR area, as such a hospital does not exist in this region.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Piper  
Dean of Instruction  
Portland Community College  
Southeast Campus
Janeen Hull  
Dean of Allied Health, Emergency & Legal Services  
Portland Community College  
Cascade Campus  

Sheila Meserschmidt  
Program Director, Institute for Health Professionals  
Portland Community College  
Climb Center  

Karen Sanders  
Dean of Health Professions  
Portland Community College  
Sylvania Campus
August 30, 2019

Dana S Selover, MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover,

I am writing to express my support for Encompass's Certificate of Need application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland, Oregon area. As a nurse, I care deeply about improving the health of our communities. The nursing program at Portland Community College prepares future nurses to meet the evolving health needs of our community. In my role as nurse administrator for this program, I am responsible for providing high-quality instructional learning opportunities for students in on-campus and off-campus environments. A new rehabilitation hospital in the greater Portland, OR area would improve the health of our community by providing high-level rehabilitation care to members of our community and providing clinical opportunities for our students pursuing careers in nursing.

Since the 1970's, Portland Community College has played an integral role in training the Portland, OR metropolitan area nursing workforce. We serve approximately 80 nursing students a year. A new Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital would provide a clinical location for many of our students to learn and train, some of whom may become future employees of Encompass Health. Clinical opportunities are vital to our students completing their training and joining the nation's largest health care profession - nursing. Clinical placements at an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital would provide a unique opportunity to provide specialized nursing care with a healthcare team focused on restorative health and wellness. This type of experience is not currently available to the majority of our students.

As a former coordinator for both the stroke and total joint replacement programs at a large Portland metropolitan area hospital system, I have witnessed the benefits of Inpatient Rehabilitation. I have seen the physical and psychological benefits patients receive from the accelerated recovery care at an inpatient rehabilitation facility provides. Additionally, care at an inpatient rehabilitation facility is recommended by the American Stroke Association.

For the above reasons, I hope you will seriously consider the granting of a Certificate of Need for Encompass for a free-standing Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland area.
Such a hospital does not presently exist in this region, and it would provide much needed services to patients and future health care providers and positively impact the health of our community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Heather Reynolds, MSN, RN
Director of Nursing
Portland Community College
July 2, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

First, thank you for the important work you do to assure all Oregonians have quality, cost effective health services available throughout the state.

I am writing to encourage your thoughtful consideration of the Certificate of Need application from Encompass Health to build an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Washington County.

As you know, there are no inpatient rehabilitation services west of Portland and patients and families often cannot, or prefer not, travel far from home for most things, including health services. This is more so for rehab patients and their spouses who are usually well over the age of 65.

The research I have seen from Encompass Health indicates significantly better outcomes when patients are treated with intensive therapy services and specialists, for a shorter length of stay, in an IRF versus an SNF for similar conditions. Further, Encompass Health assures me they accept all clinically appropriate patients, regardless of insurance coverage, including Medicare, Medicaid, and charity care.

The information I have seen also indicates that Oregon has the lowest use of IRF services in the U.S. for potentially appropriate rehab patients; 3% vs. 9.9% nationally. There would appear to be a correlation between this lower use rate of IRF services in Oregon and the small number of IRF beds available for them in only a handful of our communities.

I believe an inpatient rehabilitation hospital, such as Encompass has proposed for Washington County, would greatly improve the prospects for returning to independent living for patients with these conditions who reside in our westside communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Senator Chuck Riley
Senate District 15
July 19, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH  
Section Manager Health Care Regulation & Quality  
Public Health Division  
800 NE Oregon Street  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Dr. Selover:

I am writing as former Director of the School of Physical Therapy at Pacific University and private citizen. The School of Physical Therapy located at Pacific’s Health Sciences Campus in Hillsboro provided education to 150 (50 in each cohort) students leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree. In addition to physical therapy, Pacific educates students in the areas of occupational therapy, athletic training, pharmacy, physician assistant, clinical psychology, dental hygiene, audiology and health administration.

The primary goal of the School of Physical Therapy is to graduate a well-rounded and highly competent clinician. Students come locally from Oregon, from the Pacific Northwest and from around the country. The program offers an entry-level program that is well balanced in orthopedic, neurologic and general physical therapy with attention to the needs of pediatric patients, geriatric patients and special populations. The Program currently affiliates with approximately 250 clinical sites in 13 states primarily in the Pacific Northwest. Only 2 Oregon sites are inpatient rehabilitation facilities. Facilities offering treatment models of interdisciplinary rehabilitation care would offer exceptional educational experiences to our students. I believe the facility being proposed by Encompass would be such a facility and would be a beneficial clinical site for students of the PT program as well as students from other programs at Pacific.

Early in my career as a physical therapist I was employed by an inpatient rehabilitation facility in Texas. The Institute of Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) in Houston was and continues to be a freestanding rehabilitation facility focusing on rehabilitation of patients with orthopedic, neurologic and respiratory involvement. My experience there convinced me of the need for facilities focused exclusively on rehabilitation. All the medical, nursing and therapy staff members were experts in rehabilitation with the goal of returning patients to optimal levels of function.
I urge you to approve Encompass Health's application for the approval and construction of a new free-standing inpatient rehabilitation facility in the Portland area. I believe this facility will not only help to meet the rehabilitation needs of patients in Oregon but will prove to be an excellent clinical site for the education of physical therapy students.

Sincerely yours,

Richard A. Rutt, PhD, PT
Professor Emeritus, Pacific University
Former Director of the School of Physical Therapy
September 5, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS) is supportive of Encompass Health’s application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington County, OR. As a local Area Agency on Aging (AAA), DAVS’ mission is to strive to create options that maintain the quality of life for older adults, veterans and people with physical disabilities.

DAVS’ serves a diverse population of individuals across urban, suburban and rural areas in Washington County, Oregon. We believe that it is important for older adults and people with disabilities to have choices when it comes to their health care, including their post-acute rehabilitation options. A freestanding inpatient rehabilitation hospital will potentially provide better outcomes, lower costs and help older adults and people with disabilities to live as independently as possible.

I hope that you will consider approving Encompass Heath’s application for an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington County. A regional freestanding inpatient rehabilitation hospital would provide a much needed service to older adults and people with disabilities, as well as to the larger community.

Sincerely,

Mjere Simantel, MSW
DAVS Program Supervisor, AAA Director
Roger G. Smith, MD
34464 SW Firdale Rd
Cornelius, Or 97113
7/9/2018
To Dick Stenson,

You have brought to my attention Encompass' consideration of creating an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington county, Oregon. I am semi retired now and have 50 years history of internal medicine practice in this community, Hillsboro, Oregon. It appears that established hospitals are not eager to undertake this effort. So the IRH would not be trampling on any other heath entity's preserve.

My patients needing rehab have only traditional “nursing homes” to use. These are stuffed full of abandoned demented souls which makes them considered unsuitable for most alert but recovering from injury patients. It would seem therefore like a Win/Win situation for encompass to proceed with building or refurbishing an extant structure for a Rehabilitation Hospital.

Roger G. Smith, MD
August 9th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support a proposal I was informed about regarding increasing the quality and accessibility of acute rehabilitation care to the my patients in Hillsboro and Washington County.

I am a board-certified, physiatrist in Hillsboro working closely with neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery in a musculoskeletal/spinal outpatient practice. In the past, we have had to accept limited options in the immediate area for our patients regarding higher level acute rehabilitation care. This has often required sending patients (and their families) into the Portland metropolitan area which can be a burden for family members and suboptimal for the patient’s convenience.

I strongly endorse the development of a high quality acute inpatient rehabilitation facility in the Hillsboro/Washington County area which I believe would improve the overall care provided to the local population in need of those services.

Sincerely,

Adam Soll, M.D.

OHSU/Tuality Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation
1200 NE 48th Ave.
Hillsboro, OR 97124
September 25, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover,

I write on behalf of the Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon (BIAOR) in support of Encompass’s (previously known as HealthSouth) Certificate of Need Application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland, Oregon area. The goal of the Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon is to contribute to improving the lives of those with brain injury. Through our Neuro Resource Facilitation Information and Referral Helpline we receive over 7500 calls, 10,000 emails, and 1520 customized packets are mailed statewide yearly.

Generally, in Oregon, most individuals with acquired brain injury/spinal cord injury do not get adequate treatment or inpatient rehabilitation in hospitals in Oregon. Severe head injuries can cause serious complications, mainly because the brain can be damaged, sometimes permanently. A severe head injury can be fatal, so a person with this type of injury must be closely monitored in hospital, so that any complications that arise can be dealt with promptly and effectively. If there is a skull fractured during a head injury, there is a greater risk of developing an infection. Skull fractures can occasionally tear the membrane (the thin layer of cells) that surrounds the brain. If this happens, bacteria can enter the wound and cause an infection. Some people who sustain a severe head injury enter a state of impaired consciousness, such as a coma, vegetative state or minimally conscious state. These disorders of consciousness affect wakefulness (the ability to open your eyes and have basic reflexes) and awareness (more complex thoughts and actions, such as following instructions, remembering and communicating). Other issues can include blood clots (deep venous thrombosis), which can cause pulmonary embolism, pressure sores, pneumonia or other infections, and progressive multiple organ failure. It is imperative that people have a rehabilitation facility that they can be transferred to that can provide the 24 hour a day treatment and therapies that they need.

In a perfect world, people would have only one injury or problem, but in reality they usually have many: a stroke/brain injury, broken bones, seizure disorders, spinal cord injury, paralysis, chronic pain, especially headache, is a common complication following a TBI and most of these patients are sent home for families to care for them or to unqualified nursing homes, assisted living, residential care and adult foster homes. I believe Encompass will provide these services.

I hope that you will grant the Certificate of Need to Encompass for an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in the greater Portland area. I believe that Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon would be a much needed and great addition to our community and state.

Sincerely,

Sherry Stock, ABD/PhD, MS, CBIST
Executive Director - NeuroGerontologist
Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon

(800)544-5243 biaor@biaoregon.org
Fax: (503)961-8730 www.biaoregon.org
Becki Sparre 503-961-5675
Mailing Address: PO Box 549 * Molalla OR 97038

Sherry Stock, ABD/PhD MS CBIST
Executive Director/Neurogerontologist
BIAOR is a 501(c)(3)
Tax-exempt organization
Tax ID: 93-0900797
Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

Subject: Support for construction of a free standing inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Washington County

Dear Dr. Selover,

I have been a medical provider in western Washington County for 53 years. I have provided general anesthesia services at Forest Grove Hospital for many years while practicing primary care including OB services and emergency room duty. I am a retired Navy flight surgeon with service duty in rock pits in the Marine Corp. in Central America and in the U.S. Embassy in England. The last 20 years I worked part time at Tuality Hospital with employed physicians insuring proper coding, chart documentation and medicaid compliance. During this time I served 6 years as a member of the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners.

Some of these past activities made me feel very strongly that we must improve our inpatient rehabilitation. At the present time we have no facility to dispense what I understand the proposed facility would provide. Having reviewed several programs that do provide this type of program I think this is on the right track. We must have a facility with a multidisciplinary team led by a full time physiatrist with a single purpose, not a general hospital. We are not able to provide services to this type of patient in the present healthcare system, cost being one of the major reasons.

I am available to spend time and effort to help support your program.

Sincerely,

Sheridan Thiringer, DO

PO Box 303

Vernonia, OR 97064
July 18, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Certificate of Need for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dr. Selover,

I recently learned about the effort underway by Encompass (formerly HealthSouth) to establish an Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) in the greater Portland area. I am writing to express my strong support for an additional IRF in the area, especially if it can be located to better serve the fast-growing population of Washington County. I am writing to support the Certificate of Need being initiated by Encompass in my role as a Professor of occupational therapy at Pacific University, rehabilitation practitioner (practice experience in the rehabilitation units of three of Portland’s major rehab centers, including the Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon), an active volunteer with the Aphasia Network, and recent Chair of the Society for the Study of Occupation. USA (SSO:USA) (a research society dedicated to enhancing the theoretical and evidence-based foundation for occupational therapy and other disciplines and improving society).

Particularly through my work annually with approximately 70 survivors of neurological injury or disease as part of the Aphasia Network (a nonprofit committed to improving the lives of those experiencing aphasia), I see how important comprehensive rehabilitation services are to optimizing quality of life. These people with aphasia and their partners have identified the need for initial comprehensive neurorehabilitation services, and especially for effective follow-up through high quality outpatient services. Many of these former patients and family members describe the challenge of traveling long commutes to attend therapy sessions, if and when they are available. An additional Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF), especially if located in Washington County, would increase opportunities to gain this kind of therapy more frequently and conveniently.

The evidence is clear that therapy outcomes from intensive occupational, physical, speech, and related therapies offered in an IRF are significantly improved for those patients having access to those services (e.g., Buntin et al., 2010; Chan et al., 2013; Duncan et al., 2017; Munin et al., 2006; Nehra et al. 2016; Zhi et al., 2006). These outcomes include fewer re-hospitalizations, higher functional levels, enhanced skills in activities of daily living (ADL), lower caregiver burden, and improved quality of life.

In order to deliver culturally responsive care by therapists that are exposed to range of diverse patients, it is important to have more IRF services available to the growing diversity of the population of Washington County. In addition, having another IRF for clinical education of physiatrists, nurses, and therapists (OT, PT, psychologists, social workers, and SLP) would increase the ability for universities to meet the growing demand for therapy services in the greater Portland area related to a shortage of clinical training placements in the face of a rapidly growing population.

These are just some of the reasons that I support the concept of a new inpatient rehabilitation facility being developed in Washington County and the Certificate of Need applied for by Encompass. I would be happy to share more of the research evidence supporting the value of IRF over less intensive and less comprehensive

pacificu.edu/ot
rehabilitation programs in a follow-up conversation. There is extensive supporting research available. Not only will patients facing chronic disability benefit from additional IRF services, but the educational opportunities for future rehab professionals provided by such a facility will also help ensure our region is better prepared to meet the growing demand for these therapists.

Sincerely,

John A. White, Jr., OTR/L., PhD, FAOTA
Professor, School of Occupational Therapy
503-352-3622 (office)  503-310-6563 (mobile)
whitejr@pacificu.edu

References


Nehra, Deepika ; Nixon, Zeynep A. ; Lengenfelder, Claudia ; Bulger, Eileen M. ; Cuschieri, Joseph ; Maier, Ronald V. ; Arbab, Saman, 2016, Acute Rehabilitation after Trauma: Does It Really Matter? Journal of the American College of Surgeons, 223(6), pp.755-763

September 7, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD, MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

Having practiced neurosurgery in Washington County for 15 years, I have seen many patients who would have benefited from having inpatient rehabilitation treatment in our community. Also, as the president-elect of the Oregon Medical Association, and former Tuality Community Hospital Chief of Staff, I am aware of the disparity of health care services, like IRFs, between communities around the state.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of intensive inpatient rehabilitation services in Washington County, patients may be transferred to two small, busy acute rehab units in Portland hospitals. Many of these patients are in their middle seventies or older and family members often find it more difficult to support their loved ones when they are hospitalized in Portland. Decisions are often made to accept a lower level of rehabilitation such as a subacute nursing facility for the sake of convenience, resulting in a less optimal outcome for the patients.

The state’s growing elderly population will only exasperate the IRF shortage problem. I understand that the population over 65 in the Portland area is expected to grow by nearly 50% by 2030, and Washington County alone by 65%. As you may know, nearly two thirds of patients with diagnoses appropriate for IRF treatment will come from this age group.

In addition, younger brain and spine injury patients, who were often gainfully employed and active in their communities, may require acute rehabilitation to get back to their premorbid state. For many, whether they get IRF treatment may make the difference in returning to their homes and employment, or requiring assistance for the rest of their lives due to incomplete recovery of their physical functions.
The families of these patients would also benefit greatly by having IRF closer to home. It is the participation of families which augments the success of these programs. I hope you will seriously consider the granting of a Certificate of Need to Encompass for an independent, free-standing, 50 bed acute comprehensive rehabilitation hospital in Hillsboro. It would provide a much-needed new service to patients like ours, as well as the larger aging community.

Sincerely,

Fred Williams, Jr., M.D.
President-elect, Oregon Medical Association
Past president, Oregon Neurosurgical Society
Past Chief of Medical Staff, Tuality Community Hospital
September 14, 2018

Dana S Selover MD MPH
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland OR 97232

Dear Dr. Selover,

I am writing to you today to demonstrate my support for Encompass Health’s Certificate of Need application for an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in the Portland Oregon region. I have been a chiropractic physician in Hillsboro Oregon for the past 20 years and have worked extensively with local occupational medicine clinics in that time along with physicians from Tuality Healthcare. Research has shown that inpatient rehabilitation hospitals have significantly improved outcomes in several areas as compared to skilled nursing facilities, including a significant reduction in length of inpatient care, decrease in two year mortality rates, decrease in the number of annual emergency room return visits, and decreased need for additional return to inpatient care following initial release of the patient. Unfortunately, skilled nursing facilities often offer only enough care to keep the patient’s condition stabilized rather than to significantly improve their overall function. A personal anecdote that I can offer is a patient who sustained a moderate stroke related disability and sought treatment at my chiropractic clinic for rehabilitative services because he felt that the skilled nursing home he was staying at was essentially warehousing him and offering him no rehabilitative options. The relatively happy ending to the story is that he did regain a reasonable level of functional ability with our treatment and was able to take over some aspects of his personal care, including transitioning to in-home care. I believe that if he had been treated in a multidisciplinary inpatient rehabilitative hospital rather than a chiropractic clinic that he would have made significantly more measurable progress. Unfortunately, advanced multidisciplinary rehabilitative care is currently limited in this area even though there is a significant need for this type of service. For these reasons I support the granting of a Certificate of Need for Encompass Health to build an inpatient rehabilitative hospital to serve the greater Portland community. Thank you for your considerations in this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Daniel S Wright DC
Dana S Selover, MD MPH

Section Manager, Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

October 2, 2018

RE: CON for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover,

I am writing to express my support for Encompass’s Certificate of Need application to construct a sorely-needed inpatient rehabilitation hospital in the greater Portland, Oregon area. I am the owner and Clinic Director of Northwest Functional Neurology. My group supplies outpatient neurological rehabilitation services to patients suffering from the effects of traumatic brain injuries, strokes, movement disorders, neurodevelopmental disorders, and neurodegenerative diseases.

Many of my patients come to me while housed in skilled nursing facilities. The lack of sufficient inpatient rehabilitation beds within this region results in patients that are capable of making great progress through inpatient neurorehabilitation languishing in facilities that lack the tools and providers necessary to maximize their potential recovery. Intervening early in their cases with aggressive rehabilitation leads to far better outcomes, as is solidly supported in the literature. These outcomes are not possible without a multidisciplinary staff of highly trained providers and the investment in technology that allows them to effectively apply their skills.

Early intervention allows rehabilitation to be focused on rebuilding neurological capacity, and significantly increases the possibility of a return to full function. The longer patients must wait to engage in appropriate interventions, the lower the likelihood of a full recovery, and the greater their residual deficit. The consequence of such a delay is often longer stays in skilled nursing facilities, reduced functional capacity, greater demands on family for home care upon
their release, lost productivity, and ultimately a greater burden on Medicaid and Social Security.

I have attended to numerous patients that have suffered severe traumatic brain injuries and strokes while residing in local skilled nursing facilities. Many of them had been discharged to these facilities for the sole reason that no inpatient rehabilitation beds were locally available. It has been very clear to me that my services and those of other skilled providers would have been far more effectively applied while in a post-acute setting, and that my patients would have reached a far higher level of function with the early intervention that only a comprehensively staffed and equipped inpatient rehabilitation facility could provide.

I strongly urge you to grant the Certificate of Need to Encompass for their Portland Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital application. Their services are desperately needed in our area.

Sincerely,

Glen Zielinski, DC, DACNB, FACFN, CBIS

Board Certified Chiropractic Neurologist
Fellow, American College of Functional Neurology
Certified Brain Injury Specialist
Assistant Professor of Neurology, Carrick Institute for Clinical Neuroscience
Clinic Director, Northwest Functional Neurology
September 15, 2019

Commissioner Bob Terry  
Former Washington County Commissioner  
PO Box 873  
Hillsboro, Or. 97123  
503-720-7671

Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital

Dear Dr. Selover,

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important addition to Washington County.

First, I would like to read a letter of support from Washington County Assistant Manager to our Health and Human Services Division: Mjere Simantel.

LETTER

For my personal endorsement: I have always worked very close with and supported Washington County Health and Human Services. As a Veteran, it is imperative that we provide or have available to our citizens the services that and Encompass can provide.  
It is forecast that in a short 6 to 8 years Washington County will be our States largest County. It is not practical to be running to Portland or Multnomah County for many of our services., but rather work in conjunction on a local level in support of our Community Services, as we do now. Our
County has continued to upgrade many of our Human Resource Services in all areas. Such as Support of Tuality Community Hospital and working with Oregon Health Science University - OHSU to provide more and current services and Our County Walk in Clinic at Hawthorn Farms. As a note, I personally have been on the Tuality Community Hospital Foundation Board for 17 years.

Encompass will make a great and needed improvement to Medical Services not currently of immediate available to our Community. Even though I have not seen other Hospital Services in out right Public Support. I have not heard and decent or negative comment for these needed services. I think that is called hopeful competition.

Thank you – I look forward to your favorable support.

Commissioner Bob Terry
September 5, 2018

Dana S. Selover, MD
Section Manager, Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC

Dear Dr. Selover:

Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS) is supportive of Encompass Health’s application to build an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington County, OR. As a local Area Agency on Aging (AAA), DAVS’ mission is to strive to create options that maintain the quality of life for older adults, veterans and people with physical disabilities.

DAVS’ serves a diverse population of individuals across urban, suburban and rural areas in Washington County, Oregon. We believe that it is important for older adults and people with disabilities to have choices when it comes to their health care, including their post-acute rehabilitation options. A freestanding inpatient rehabilitation hospital will potentially provide better outcomes, lower costs and help older adults and people with disabilities to live as independently as possible.

I hope that you will consider approving Encompass Heath’s application for an Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington County. A regional freestanding inpatient rehabilitation hospital would provide a much needed service to older adults and people with disabilities, as well as to the larger community.

Sincerely,

Mjere Simantel, MSW
DAVS Program Supervisor, AAA Director
October 15, 2019

My name is Gwen Dayton, General Counsel and Executive Vice President with the Oregon Health Care Association. A nonprofit, OHCA is the largest long term care trade association in Oregon, representing more than 1,000 organizations and 90 percent of long term care providers in the state, including all nursing facilities in the service area at issue in the Encompass application. Today I speak on behalf of OHCA as well as facilities providing care in the service area; Marquis Companies, Avamere Family of Companies, EmPres Healthcare and Prestige Senior Living. OHCA and its member nursing facilities oppose this application.

Encompass comes to us from Alabama and this is their first attempt to operate an IRF in Oregon. We believe they will find, and you should recognize, that Oregon is a very different environment and marketplace that does not support the application. When evaluating health policy, Oregon looks first to the Triple Aim: Better Health, Better Care, Lower Costs. The Encompass application does not support these goals, is contrary to other Oregon health policy and does not comport with the certificate need requirements.

Before analyzing the relevant policy and law, OHCA presents several key questions:

1. What location is OHA considering when evaluating the proposal? Encompass submitted an amendment to its application on October 7 indicating it is looking at a different site.
2. When is OHA deeming the Encompass application complete given the significant amendment recently received?
3. What findings has OHA made to support determination of the service area that applies to the Encompass and Post Acute Medical applications?

We are different here:

Oregon’s nursing facilities serve a different population than nursing facilities in other states. Unlike other states, our legislature and Department of Human Services have directed that assisted living and residential care facilities provide most of the long term, 24/7 care and services. As stated in ORS 410.020, the state shall “[a]ssure that health and social services be available that [a]llow the older citizen and citizen with a disability to live independently at home or with others as long as the citizen desires without requiring inappropriate or premature institutionalization.
payments to IRFs. Of this audited amount, $5.7 billion (84% of the dollars covered by the audit) was paid for care to beneficiaries that was not reasonable and necessary. (Office of Inspector General-HHS, Many Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Stays did not Meet Medicare Coverage and Documentation Requirements, September, 2018)

In apparent confirmation of this concern, Encompass recently agreed to pay $48 million to resolve a false claims act allegation relating to its inpatient rehabilitation facilities. The allegation is that some Encompass inpatient rehabilitation facilities provided inaccurate information to Medicare to maintain their status as an inpatient rehabilitation facility and to earn a higher rate of reimbursement, and that some admissions to its facilities were not medically necessary. (The United States Department of Justice, Encompass Health agrees to pay $48 million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations Relating to its Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, June 28, 2019)

*It is unclear if Encompass has secured the necessary property rights*

Just a week ago, Encompass amended its application to add an alternative site. The amendment indicates the original site may not be available due to the need to obtain land use approvals that have not yet been granted. The amendment proposes a different site but does not specify whether that land has been fully and properly secured.

*The Encompass inpatient rehabilitation facility will disrupt the health care marketplace*

As noted above, existing nursing facilities currently care for the very therapy patients that might go to applicant’s facility if approved. If these patients seek care elsewhere, this will threaten the viability of area nursing facilities and thus threaten access to necessary care in the community. Further, based on the data included in the application Encompass will only accept approximately 3% Medicaid. Further, their experience in other states indicates they accept just under 8% Medicare Advantage. This means the bulk of their revenue will come from Medicare fee for service. Inevitably, they will attempt to take the most profitable patients at the expense of existing providers. The service area is at risk of losing essential service providers and we will remove access to care for low-income individuals.

Also, remember that Oregon, unlike other states that Encompass may operate in, is dominated by Medicare managed care. We are concerned that Medicare managed care payers are unlikely to contract with an IRF as costs associated with these sites of care are higher than paid to other providers and the patients are being effectively served in nursing facilities now. Without significant Medicare managed care contracts, the proposed IRF is unlikely to survive.

We urge you to reject the Encompass proposal.
Portland Area Skilled Nursing Facilities

Skilled Nursing Facilities
(Existing)
- 57 SNFs within Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas Counties.

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities
(Proposed)
- Post Acute Medical
- Encompass Health
October 15, 2019

By Hand Delivery

Matthew S. Gilman, Program Manager
Oregon Health Authority
Oregon State Public Health Division
800 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 465
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Application for CON by Encompass
Written Testimony by Post Acute Medical

Dear Mr. Gilman:

On behalf of Post Acute Medical, LLC and PAM Squared at Portland, LLC ("PAM"), we offer the following comments on the application for a certificate of need by Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Oregon, LLC ("Encompass").

As you know from reviewing PAM’s application, PAM has calculated the need in its service area as 121 beds. Although Encompass has defined its service area somewhat differently than PAM, it is now clear to PAM that there is ample need in this region for both projects. Indeed, there will still be unmet need after both facilities are built, as PAM views the evidence.

PAM therefore supports Encompass’s assessment that there is a need for the Encompass facility at either the Hawthorne Farm site or at the alternative Amberglen site.

Very truly yours,

/Arden J. Olson