



July 26, 2019

Pam Krecklow
Certificate of Need Coordinator
Oregon Health Authority

VIA EMAIL

Dear Pam:

NAMI Oregon is requesting “affected party status” for NEWCO Oregon Inc.’s Certificate of Need application to build a freestanding psychiatric hospital in Wilsonville. We make such a request as an organization that holds a public interest in the results of the review process.

NAMI Oregon is the state chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a membership-governed grassroots organization that provides free education, support, and advocacy services to individuals and families affected by mental illness. We offer programs through our 15 chapters across the state and annually serve about 10,000 people. In Oregon, our membership is almost entirely composed of individuals living with mental illness, families with loved ones living with mental illness, and friends and allies of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

NAMI holds an interest in the results of the proceedings because it is our members and the populations for which we advocate that will be directly served by the proposed hospital. To our knowledge, no other association or organization participating in the process can represent both the patient and family voice. Moreover, to our knowledge, all or nearly all of the entities participating in the process will be directly or indirectly impacted financially by the proposed hospital, which potentially compromises their ability to represent the perspective of the individuals and families that utilize psychiatric hospital services.

NAMI is uniquely positioned to represent the consumer voice because of its significant background in advocacy through the legislative and administrative process at the state and local levels and through its direct work with major health systems and various other providers. Actual need for a new hospital in the proposed location, impact on system access, impact on system stability, and the type and quality of services to be offered are among many factors that NAMI will evaluate as it monitors the process. To the degree possible, NAMI’s intent is to evaluate the application and formally provide comment to the Oregon Health Authority where we feel it is warranted.

We believe this letter provides sufficient evidence that NAMI Oregon qualifies for affected party status. We welcome the opportunity to provide more information on our membership, services, and advocacy if that assists in evaluating our request.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bouneff", is written over a white rectangular background.

Chris Bouneff
Executive Director