



July 21, 2023

Matt Gilman, Program Manager
Oregon Health Authority
Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 465
Portland, OR
Via email: Matt.S.GILMAN@oha.oregon.gov

RE: CN#699; PeaceHealth Riverbend, new acute rehabilitation hospital

Dear Mr. Gilman:

Health and Human Services of Lane County is committed to enhancing health and wellness for all citizens in Lane County, and we believe that healthy people are the foundation of a healthy community. We own and operate a network of six community health centers, known as the Community Health Centers of Lane County. The mission of the Community Health Centers is to improve health and wellness through access to affordable, holistic healthcare.

Each of our clinics provides superior, affordable primary care for the whole family. We offer compassionate care for infants, children, adolescents, adults, and seniors; and focus on integrated care that values the whole person. Our services encompass not only treatment and prevention of illness but also health education, behavioral health services, pediatric dental and outreach. In 2022 the more than 25 primary care providers of the Community Health Centers of Lane County, provided 16,636 patients with care over 51,810 visits.

The Community Health Centers of Lane County relies on our close partnerships with area hospitals and specialty providers to assure timely transfers of care. We have a number of patients annually that need access to acute rehabilitation following a trauma, stroke orthopedic injury or other medical concern. Many of these patients' clinical needs are made more challenging by social determinants. PeaceHealth's Oregon Rehabilitation Center, located at the University District campus strives to accommodate our patients, but is increasingly impacted by the age and undersized nature of the unit. For this reason, we are very supportive of the proposal to build a new 50 bed acute rehabilitation hospital and transfer the bed capacity of ORC to it. The new facility will include private rooms, more therapy areas and significantly newer equipment aimed at improving functionality. The new hospital will have more spaces for families to participate and learn how to support their family members post discharge.

This project will support many in Lane County and beyond and we encourage approval.

Sincerely,

Eve Gray, RN, MSN, CPHQ, CMPE (she/her/hers)
Director, Lane County Health & Human Services