



Emergency Medical Services



Tri-County 911 Service Coordination Program (TC911)

November 15, 2016

Ms. Jana Fussell
Certificate of Need Coordinator
Public Health Division
Oregon Health Authority
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 465
Portland OR 97232

Re: Certificate of Need Application by Universal Health Services to operate a 100-bed Psychiatric Hospital in Wilsonville Oregon

I understand that Universal Health Services ("UHS") has submitted a certificate of need request for a 100-bed psychiatric hospital (DBA Willamette Valley Behavioral Health), to serve children, adolescents and adults in Washington County, Oregon. Based on the current information we have received, the Tri-County 911 Service Coordination Program (TC911), would support this request.

TC911 serves Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington county residents using EMS and emergency departments frequently when other health and social services would more appropriately meet their needs. More than 80% of TC911 clients are enrolled in Medicaid. Interventions are designed as short-term and include intensive care coordination and direct case management. Most TC911 clients have complex care management and coordination needs which cross multiple service systems and disciplines, including but not limited to, mental health, alcohol and drug, primary care, public safety, corrections, housing, and aging, disability and veterans services. TC911 aims to reduce unnecessary use of emergency medical services (EMS) by linking clients to the right care at the right place and time.

Since 2015, TC911 has successfully referred clients to, and coordinated care with, Cedar Hills Hospital, an 89-bed adult, inpatient psychiatric hospital, located in Portland Oregon. Universal Health Services ("UHS"), a respected hospital management company, owns Cedar Hills Hospital and is also the owner of Willamette Valley Behavioral Health. UHS' history of providing high quality healthcare services and clinical expertise to the region creates confidence that Willamette Valley Behavioral Health will provide the same.

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The planned service area for the Willamette Valley Behavioral Health hospital includes over 1.7 million residents and almost half of the state's population. In this service area, there are currently seven acute care hospitals with adult inpatient psychiatric beds. As providers working daily to assist our clients into acute and outpatient behavioral health services, we routinely experience waitlists and other capacity barriers.

I understand UHS has reviewed inpatient psychiatric utilization statistics, prepared a detailed inpatient psychiatric bed need forecast model for children, adolescent and adult inpatients and found significant current shortages of inpatient psychiatric beds, well in excess of its 100-bed request. In our experience, these shortages appear realistic and will only increase as the population continues to grow.

We believe the Willamette Valley Behavioral Health hospital would increase needed psychiatric and substance use service access, capacity and choice to vulnerable residents of the tri-counties. Learning that Willamette Valley Behavioral Health will be open to some Medicaid members only strengthens our support for this new facility. TC911 supports UHS' certificate of need request for Willamette Valley Behavioral Health, a 100-bed psychiatric hospital in Washington County.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Alison Goldstein, LCSW
Tri-County 911 Service Coordination Program
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

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