



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services
Addictions and Mental Health Division
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December 23, 2008

Frank Baumeister, Jr., M.D.
Chair, Federal Laws Committee of the Oregon Health Fund Board
1225 Ferry Street S.E.
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Dr. Baumeister:

Dr. Goldberg forwarded your November 26, 2008 memo describing the issue related to the certification of small and rural hospitals to involuntarily hold psychiatric patients that arose from public hearings to the Federal Laws Committee of the Oregon Health Fund Board. Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) staff have reviewed the memo and recommended a response. AMH has worked with a number of rural and small hospitals to become certified. Currently six rural and three small metropolitan area hospitals are appropriately certified to involuntarily hold psychiatric patients. In addition, AMH is currently consulting with four other hospitals to become certified. In spite of these efforts, many rural and small hospitals are not certified. In response to the issues presented in your memo, AMH will contact the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems to meet to review this issue. The goal of this meeting will be to clarify the barriers to certification and develop a plan that expands the number of certified small and rural hospitals.

Thank you for providing the information from your committee's public hearings. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Michael N. Morris, quality improvement and certification manager, at 503-947-5539 or michael.n.morris@state.or.us.

Sincerely,

Madeline M. Olson, Deputy

Richard Harris
Interim Assistant Director

CC: Bruce Goldberg, M.D., Director
Madeline M. Olson, Deputy Assistant Director
Jane-ellen Weidanz, Governmental Affairs Manager
Michael N. Morris, Quality Improvement and Certification Manager

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