



**Comments in Support:**

**Regional Behavioral Approach (Samaritan, Lincoln, Linn and Benton Counties)**

From Chris Bouneff, Executive Director, NAMI Oregon

May 10, 2025

Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee

NAMI Oregon wishes to express its support for a Lottery Bond Authorization for the proposal Regional Behavioral Approach (Samaritan, Lincoln, Linn and Benton Counties). This project would expand hospital inpatient psychiatric care at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center and partial hospitalization services in the region.

As the Behavioral Health Residential+ Facility Study from last June revealed, outside of the Portland metro area, most regions in Oregon lack suitable access to hospital inpatient psychiatric care. Samaritan's project to expand from 10 to 28 inpatient beds will meet a critical regional need while requiring only a modest investment from the state. And such an investment is warranted given the small to non-existent margins that inpatient psychiatric care generates. If done correctly — if done to truly meet community needs — inpatient psychiatric care isn't a profitable enterprise. In fact, such units can lose money as they focus less on patient payer mix and more on individual patient needs. State investment will help ensure the project comes to fruition.

Samaritan's project also has the added benefit of increasing capacity in its partial hospitalization program, which is often a step down from inpatient care or a community-based alternative to inpatient hospitalization for patients who have increased acuity but who can maintain at home during treatment. With an ability to accommodate 20 patients at a time, Samaritan's partial hospitalization program will serve 280 people per year, a significant increase from its current capacity.

Oregon is at a crossroads, having made historic investments and reforms in recent legislative sessions. It's important that we continue our momentum to build out a system that's responsive to Oregonians regardless of where they live — a system that actually serves people in their home communities. Samaritan's proposal exemplifies the type of investments that will continue to push Oregon forward.

NAMI Oregon appreciates your consideration and hopes you will support this request for state investment.