



# PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center, University District Fact Sheet

Aug. 22, 2023

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## PeaceHealth announced comprehensive process to close underutilized University District hospital in Eugene, Oregon.

### Fast Facts

- Licensed beds: 117
- Open beds (as of Aug. 21), fluctuates based on need and staffing: 49  
(Does not include Emergency Department, Medical, Inpatient Rehab and Behavioral Health only)
- Caregivers (employees): 1,077 on the UD campus, of which 521 are hospital based.
- Services transitioning to RiverBend: Emergency Department, Medical Unit, Inpatient Rehab Unit
- Services remaining: Behavioral Health Unit, PeaceHealth Medical Group clinics, Home & Community, Home Infusion

### History

- Opened in 1924 as Pacific Christian Hospital
- Purchased by Sisters of St. Joseph in 1936, and the name changed to Sacred Heart General Hospital.
- PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield, Oregon opened in 2008.
- Revitalization plans in 2008, 2011 and 2018 invested millions of dollars into University District.

### Current Situation

- Limited Services Offered
  - University District is *not* a traditional full-service acute hospital.
  - Services include Emergency Department, Medical, Acute Rehab and Behavioral Health Units.
  - Received waivers from the state to not offer services that are normally part of a hospital license, i.e., surgeries or births.
- Low Utilization
  - Average daily patient census: 19, of which:
    - 9 are medical patients; and
    - 10 are rehab patients.
  - Behavioral Health Unit average daily census of approximately 26 patients.
  - The Emergency Department sees 34,000 visits annually, equating to about 95 daily visits, of which:
    - 61 are medical patients with lower acuity needs;

- 15 are high users of the ED in need of social services and not medical care; and
  - 19 are patients requiring crisis assessment, with three deemed appropriate for admittance to the Behavioral Health Unit.
  - 6% of UD ED patients are admitted, 21% of RiverBend ED patients are admitted.
- Financially Unsustainable
    - Generates significant net operating losses of \$22–24M annually (approx. \$2M monthly).
    - Losses primarily driven by unfunded care, exacerbated by temporary labor costs in response to the COVID pandemic.
    - Key financial factors (annualized costs):
      - Temporary labor costs/traveler expenses: \$8.5M over the last 12 months
      - Investment caring for underserved Oregon Health Authority/Department of Human Services clients: \$12.5M
      - Patients presenting 10 or more times to the ED due to lack of housing/food, primary medical care, etc.: \$1.7M
      - Medically stable patients lacking appropriate placement with complex needs: \$6M
      - Psychiatric patients readmitted for extended stay or unfunded Oregon State Hospital wait list care: \$2.8M
      - Increased security to support high acuity patients without outpatient care or housing: \$1M
      - Foundation-funded Transition Team Services supporting unhoused individuals: \$1M
    - Campus needs a capital investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in facility upgrades.

**PeaceHealth is committed to serving the people of Lane County and plans to increase care and services over the coming years.**

- Over the past 15 years, PeaceHealth has invested more than \$1B in Lane County, including building RiverBend and subsequent services. Recent and future investments include:
  - \$80M investment in a new [50-bed inpatient rehab facility](#) in partnership with LifePoint Health, offering the region's first traumatic brain injury unit;
  - Plans to open new clinics, including a new pediatrics plus clinic at Valley River and a new family medicine clinic in Pleasant Hill;
  - Seven surgeons from Northwest Surgical Specialists joining PeaceHealth Medical Group;
  - Creation of a new and expanded vascular surgery group;
  - Continued investments in Bushnell's and Lane County Community College's Nursing and Respiratory Therapy programs to address current staffing challenges;
  - Investment in new imaging equipment for Florence and Cottage Grove communities;
  - Renovation of the outpatient rehabilitation clinic in Florence;
  - Ongoing capital investments at RiverBend in critical advanced services only PeaceHealth provides, such as open-heart surgery, cardiac procedures, advanced stroke care, and regional trauma services;
  - \$1.25M donation and [partnership with Eugene YMCA](#) to improve health outcomes in Lane County;
  - The development of the [PeaceHealth Oregon Institute for Nursing Excellence](#) (INE) to support nurses in caring for patients and the long-range development of their careers.