



March 7, 2017

From: Chris Bouneff, executive director

NAMI Oregon has not yet taken a position on the proposal to close the state hospital in Junction City. NAMI, along with nearly all of Oregon's mental health stakeholders, originally opposed construction of the hospital. However, NAMI is concerned with any proposal that would close the hospital without reinvesting all or a significant portion of the savings back into our mental health care system. We likely would oppose such a proposal because it would drain important resources from our care system at a time when recent legislative investments are starting to pay dividends. Oregon should protect those investments rather than chip away at them.

NAMI also is concerned because there doesn't appear to be a thoughtful process in place to transition services that are currently offered at the Junction City hospital to other environments. Any proposal to cease state hospital services at Junction City should include details on such a transition.

NAMI hopes that this proposal generates more concrete conversation about how the state can invest more wisely so that it can better serve the populations being served at the Junction City hospital. If done correctly, Oregon would draw down more federal dollars, allowing our system to serve even more people while also addressing the concerns around safety and security that proponents of the Junction City hospital have.