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JOINT TASK FORCE ON HOSPITAL DISCHARGE CHALLENGES

To: Interim Committees of the Legislative Assembly Related to Health and Human Services
Re: Memorandum Summarizing Task Force Work, September 2023 – December 2023
Date: December 14, 2023

In June of 2023, the Legislative Assembly created the Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge Challenges with the goal of supporting individuals in hospitals who face challenges being discharged to appropriate post-acute care settings. House Bill 3396 (2023) directs the 22-member Task Force to make recommendations related to workforce barriers, discharge processes, benefit plan coverage and reimbursement, community-based placements, innovative care models, and state and federal partnership opportunities. Proposals must consider the needs of individuals who experience homelessness or who otherwise lack stable housing. Recommendations are due December 15, 2023, to the extent practicable, and in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, by November 15, 2024.

The Task Force submits the attached memorandum to provide an update about its progress. The memorandum does not include recommendations. Instead, it describes the Task Force's first phase of work, its needs assessment process, and its proposed next steps to explore concepts identified for short-term action. In the next phase of its work, the Task Force will engage in focused conversations about these topics and the remaining policy areas identified in HB 3396. Discussion and recommendations will be supported by analysis and expertise from a nationally recognized consultant.

As it advances toward its objectives, the Task Force has worked hard to gather the perspectives of key stakeholders, including hospitals, post-acute and long-term care providers, state agencies, and providers of guardianship services. Discussions have yielded insights about the complexities of discharge challenges as well as potential pathways forward. We look forward to sharing our final report with recommendations by November 15, 2024, in advance of the 2025 legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy Jones, Chair

Elizabeth Burns, Vice-Chair