



# Status Update: Hospital Discharge Challenges

January 13, 2026

**Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, MWVCAA**  
**Elizabeth Burns, MD, CMO, American Health Care Association**  
Chair and Vice Chair,  
Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge Challenges

# Hospital Discharge Challenges

- Oregon's limited hospital beds are used to care for people who are ready to be discharged to less intensive care settings
- Process barriers slow access to Medicaid coverage for long term services and supports (LTSS)
- Long term care facilities serve people with increasingly complex care needs
- Workforce shortages exacerbate process challenges

# Joint Task Force

- Established by [HB 3396](#) (2023)
  - Sen. Patterson, Rep. Goodwin and 18 Gov.-appointed members
  - Met between Sept. 2023 – Nov. 2024
  - Link to [research and policy brief](#) by ATI Advisory
  - Link to Task Force [final report and recommendations](#)
- Vote on final report and recommendations: Unanimous

# Senate Bill 296 (2025)

Passed without opposition in both chambers

Key provisions ([link](#) to measure summary):

- Medicaid Eligibility Determinations for LTSS
- Coverage of Skilled Nursing for 100 Days
- Agencies to study and report on options:
  - Waive Asset Testing
  - Regulatory Frameworks for Care Settings
  - Increase Adult Foster Homes
  - Medical Respite and Care Coordination

# Improving LTSS Eligibility

- Directs ODHS and OHA to create a dashboard to measure the amount of time it takes to complete Medicaid eligibility determinations for LTSS.
- Directs ODHS and OHA to conduct an operational review to streamline eligibility determinations for LTSS, to include:
  - a baseline analysis using data from the dashboard; benchmarks for improving processing times; technologies to meet those benchmarks; potential changes to staff assignments and workflows; a decision tree and protocols to use when delays occur; and exploration of payment models to provide short-term, temporary coverage while an eligibility determination is pending.

Requires ODHS and OHA to report to the Legislative Assembly on operational review by **August 15, 2026**.

# Medicaid Skilled Nursing Benefit

Directs OHA to establish a post-hospital extended care benefit to cover a medical assistance recipient's stay in skilled nursing for up to 100 days.

# ODHS and OHA to Study:

- Options to waive asset testing
- Regulatory framework for residential care facilities and adult foster homes
- Strategies to increase adult foster homes and other community-based settings (with support from HCSD)
- Expansion of Medical Respite and Care Coordination

**Report due August 15, 2026**

# Additional considerations

- Centering on people with complex care needs who may lack stable housing
- Guardianship is a key piece of the puzzle
  - 2025 appropriations bill included additional funds for Office of the Public Guardian
- Post-acute care workforce: leveraging existing initiatives to expand pipelines

# Thank you.

Jimmy Jones: [jimmy.jones@mwvcaa.org](mailto:jimmy.jones@mwvcaa.org)

Elizabeth Burns: [lburns@ahca.org](mailto:lburns@ahca.org)