

Rural health care gets shot in the arm in new budget

Wallowa County Chieftain

Rural hospitals can look forward to training and coaching that will help them provide even better care of their rural clients. Oregon state Sen. Alan Bates and Rep. Nancy Nathanson, along with Oregon's rural hospitals, have announced the inclusion of \$10 million in the state's recent budget to fund projects designed to help ensure the sustainability of rural health care.

The programs set out in the legislation are:

- Launching a Transitional Post-Acute Care program in partnership with Mayo Clinic. This program will hire a consultant to help hospitals to establish transitional post-acute care programs. The goal is to improve readmission, increase patient satisfaction, and transition care for patients



back to their rural communities, thereby reducing cost to the patient with local care and decreased transportation.

- Support for the Oregon Graduate Medical Education (GME) Consortium to bolster the number of GME slots in Oregon. This is a short term action that will have

long-term rewards through an increase in primary care providers with a special focus on rural training tracks.

- Population health education and coaching for all rural health care providers and leaders. The result will be a certification via a multi-week educational platform

including small group training and coaching focused on rural outcomes.

- Implementation of virtual clinics. This new care delivery model will bolster urgent care and/or afterhours access to care without additional brick-and-mortar facilities. A virtual clinic is staffed around the clock and offers patients visits via videoconference or telephone. This is a short-term access solution that brings up to 20 providers to our rural communities immediately through a virtual office, with the effect of redirecting care to a more appropriate setting.

The projects were developed during an exhaustive listening tour and process conducted in a partnership between the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH), and the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS).

AFFORDABLE RATES! ALL FITNESS LEVELS!



VAULT

Health and Fitness

24 Hr Access • World Class Equipment
Classes & Training • Nutrition



vaulthealthandfitness.com • 106 SW 1st Street, Enterprise • 541-426-7883