

Health from 1A

Oregon governor's office south valley/mid-coast regional solutions coordinator Jackie Mikalonis also attended.

Henry said, "Since the advent of the Affordable Care Act, 550,000 new patients have entered the Oregon healthcare system. That system was already struggling with a shortage of healthcare providers before that. The city government does not have the knowledge or the ability to solve this problem. What we can do is support the efforts of our dedicated healthcare professionals."

Audience members were encouraged to write questions on cards handed out as they entered the seating area.

PeaceHealth panel members explained the current nationwide doctor shortage and new recruitment procedures and then answered audience questions.

Richard Bennett, vice president of operations of Peace Health Medical Group for

Oregon, said most physicians were moving to urban areas with populations over 500,000 and that less than 10 percent are moving to rural practices. He also said that there is currently a doctor shortage of between 40,000 and 50,000 in the United States.

"We have a shortage today, but we are going to have a larger shortage as we go to 2025," he said. "This is a national issue. We can't meet the demand."

Michael Penrose, system director of provider services for PeaceHealth said, "We are targeting applicants who were born, raised or educated in the states of Oregon, Washington and Alaska."

According to Penrose, most residents come out of training with about \$250,000 to \$300,000 of debt and that PeaceHealth was offering a loan forgiveness package of up to \$100,000 for a five-year contract.

Henry read the audience questions that had been assigned to specific panel members.

The questions ranged from getting prescription refills and

referrals and how to deal with chronic health problems, all without a primary provider, and what patients can do if they do not like their provider.

Henry read one question, "Providers are required to sign off on prescription refills. If I don't have a provider, how do I get my refills?"

Nina Harvey, director of operations for PeaceHealth Medical Group replied, "You go through the same process; you call your pharmacy and request a refill. That will come into our office and it will be processed. The providers as a team are going to take care of the need of the patients of the clinic. It could take longer. It is always a good idea to call in 10 to 14 days before you run out."

Henry read the next question on referrals for specialists and services such as physical therapy and imaging.

"How will these services be ordered for patients without providers?" he asked

Bennett replied, "We will be working within the clinics to

evaluate what your needs are and making sure you get those things that provide the best care for you. If your physician is no longer here, we are going to take care of you."

Henry read, "How will ongoing problems with chronic conditions be handled? If I don't have a primary care provider, who will monitor my health needs?"

David Duffey, vice president/medical director of PeaceHealth Oregon said, "In addition to the provider, there is a team of individuals that help us in our population health strategies in managing some of these chronic diseases. We have nurse care managers, advanced practice clinicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners that will help. When you need help, go to the clinic and we will help you as quick as we can."

Another question Henry presented to the panel addressed how Peace Health would provide information when new doctors are available.

Harvey replied, "We have providers coming for the end of this year. For patients without providers, they should be able to be placed with those new providers. They should all receive letters by January or February."

Henry read, "Why, when we call to see our primary doctor, are we referred to the walk in clinic? We are charged a premium as a new patient and then told to see our primary doctor, who we wanted to see in the first place. Now we have to pay two co-pays to take care of one issue."

Bennett said, "Having that question put out here into the public forum raises issues for us on this panel. We are going to come up with some innovative ways to address this. I can't say we are going to have an answer tomorrow. We need to work with you to make this as easy as possible. We are under some stress here because we have lost some providers. We are going to try and do the best we can."

The next question asked if rumors of doctors spending little time with patients were true.

Bennett said, "There is no truth to that. ... There is no restriction on five minutes per patient."

Duffey added, "We want to get as many patients through as we can. We don't want to dally a lot in the room, but if we took an hour for every visit that came in, that would mean there would be a lot of people that didn't get seen that day. We have no requirements on how long somebody spends with an individual patient."

Another question asked if PeaceHealth had an ombudsman and for ways that person could be contacted.

Bennett replied, "PeaceHealth has a patient family advisory council. We have patients that are a part of that council located in Eugene."

He added that the council does visit Peace Harbor.

"How will the walk-in clinic manage the increase in patients?" Henry read. "Will wait times become unrealistic for patients that work and can't sit waiting for hours?"

Harvey said that the walk-in clinic will have longer waits.

"We do have a program where you can walk in and get your name on a list and then you can leave," she said. "We can call you when your name rises to the top of the list so you don't have to wait so long."

After the meeting, Bozievich said, "I'm impressed with the recruitment effort they are doing. I'm a little jealous because we have a similar issue in recruiting people to our public health system. Particularly mental health providers are hard to recruit right now."

Peace Harbor CEO Rick Yecny said the medical center has five new potential primary recruits scheduled to visit the facility. In addition, three new providers have signed on and will start by the first of the year, with one more to begin in 2017 and one in 2018.

"We are trying to fill positions now and create a pipeline for the future," Yecny said.

Introducing an
**MS EVENT
WORTH
SHOUTING
ABOUT.**

LEARN ABOUT LIVING WITH RELAPSING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS) AT THIS LIVE EVENT.

Join us to hear an MS expert discuss an oral treatment option for relapsing MS.

DATE AND TIME: 09/01/2016 at 12:00 PM

SPEAKER: **David Clark, DO**
Eugene, OR

LOCATION: 1285 Restobar
1285 Bay Street in Old Town
Florence, OR 97439

EVENT CODE: TR380590 (1333668)

RSVP **PLEASE RSVP:**

- RelapsingMultipleSclerosisEvents.com
- 1-866-703-6293
- MSRSVP@ahmdirect.com

*Registration is limited to two people per RSVP. Photo ID may be requested at event entrance.

Complimentary parking or valet available.

A light meal or snack may be provided.

Copyright ©2015
GZUS.MS.15.05.1439(2)

GIVING BACK

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LORRAINE GRAHAM
Florence Garden Club

Lorraine has been a Florence Garden club member since 2007. She has been an actual member in many club projects. She has been the Plant Sale Chairperson for the last 5-years. She also works part time at Kitchen Klutter on Bay Street. She is a delightful person and a team player.



Florence Garden Club
Florence OR, 97439

Wanda Johnson, Broker
Coldwell Banker Coast Real Estate

County Transfer and Recycling

Chad Clement, D.D.S., P.C



First Baptist Church

Oregon Pacific Bank

Sawson's Pest Management

Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County

Issues from 1A

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a trade agreement aimed at promoting economic growth, creating jobs, improving partnerships and increasing environmental concerns among 12 countries. Negotiations concluded on the partnership in 2015, but it has yet to be signed. Opponents argue that it takes away rights of countries and their people in order to favor corporations — "because it was written by corporations," DeFazio said.

"American people have woken up to it ... I think we're going to beat it. I think finally we're going to stop this madness of trade policies that export our jobs and challenge our sovereignty. I am hopeful," he said.

After about 20 minutes, DeFazio invited the audience to ask questions.

People asked for more information on the Trans-Pacific Partnership and about plans to help Congress and the Senate accomplish more, the stockpiling of emergency equipment to assist communities, increasing gun security, protecting Social Security and about more local concerns, such as the timber industry, transportation access, tsunami preparedness and rural health options.

DeFazio has been a U.S. representative since 1987. He responded "I have a bill for that" on several issues. He was also able to point out his track record in voting for or against controversial bills.

"I can only do what I can do on one side of Capitol Hill," he said. "I try. I've done bipartisan bills in the House, but I can't force the Senate to do anything."

DeFazio invited people to send him — and the rest of the Oregon contingent — comments on these and other issues.

For more information, go to defazio.house.gov/.

Denture Services, Inc

5% Discount on Replacement Dentures and Partials

William Foster, LD
(541) 997-6054
524 Laurel Street - Florence
(coupon required)

KRAB KETTLE

Fresh Fish and Seafood in the case, Krab Kettle brand tuna.

Enjoy a complimentary cup of chowder with purchase of \$25 or more.

One per coupon/Expires August 31, 2016
541-997-8996
280 Hwy. 101 • Florence

Ixtapa

Family Mexican Restaurant

Buy One get \$5 OFF second dinner

Regular price only
"Best Mexican food for miles"
- Trip Advisor Review

1015 Hwy. 101
(541) 997-4499
Expires 08-31-16

SHIPPIN' SHACK

SHRED UP TO 10 LBS - RECEIVE \$2 OFF

SHRED OVER 10 LBS - RECEIVE \$3 OFF
Expires 08-31-16

541-997-5888
625 Hwy. 101 • Florence

Silver Sand Dollar

10% Off Silver Sand Dollar Items

(Some restrictions apply)
1499 Bay Street
(Old Port Office Building)
541-997-0111

Swanson's Pest Management

Get Ready for Spring

FREE Inspections
Inspect-Correct-Protect
Sustained Pest Management solutions for your home and businesses.

541-997-4027 • 800-622-8993
www.swansonpm.com
CCB#79884

WALLY'S

Septic Tank Pumping

\$25.00 off Pumping or \$10.00 off a Service Call

Call Today to Schedule an appointment
Call 541-997-8885

Payment must be made at the time of service to receive discount. Excludes payment made with Credit Card. Coupon expires - August 31, 2016

Siuslaw News

+

shoppe
Keep it local.

www.shoppelocal.biz