

Questions & Answers

regarding possible changes at Lincoln County Healthcare

1. **What are you attempting to do?** To fund its vision to provide high-quality, affordable healthcare, Lincoln County Healthcare is working with state and federal agencies to have a single licensed hospital providing services on both the St. Andrews and Miles campuses. We are working to achieve Critical Access Hospital funding for this new single licensed hospital.
2. **Why are you changing the corporate structure of LCH?** Lincoln County Healthcare was created as a system to share resources with the goal of providing high-quality, accessible and affordable care to Lincoln County. Once the scheduled conversion from Emergency Care to Urgent Care is complete at St. Andrews, it will no longer be a licensed hospital. There will still be one licensed hospital corporation in Lincoln County providing services at Miles and St. Andrews. Our goal is to make sure the hospital is designed to function with two campuses and provide accessible, affordable care for everyone.
3. **What is Critical Access Funding?** Medicare provides a subsidy to certain hospitals that are in rural areas and small towns. Hospitals must meet specific criteria to be eligible for this funding.
4. **How much will you be able to reduce your charges if this works?** We anticipate at least a 15% reduction in overall hospital charges at St. Andrews and Miles.
5. **Is CAH Funding being taken from St. Andrews?** No. This plan maintains CAH funding for the remaining services at St. Andrews while expanding the subsidy to Miles and the rest of Lincoln County Healthcare.
6. **Will this new arrangement keep the Emergency Department open in Boothbay?** No. The decision to convert the St. Andrews Emergency Department to an Urgent Care Center was based on quality and patient safety issues associated with low patient volume at the St. Andrews E.D.
7. **When will this happen?** Whether this happens or not depends on our ability to work with state and federal agencies to meet their application criteria. There is much work to be done before we can answer this question. If we are successful in the application process, it will be in place by the fall of 2013.
8. **Are you renaming the hospitals in Lincoln County?** While the new legal hospital corporation will have a new name (to be determined), both St. Andrews and Miles will continue to be known by their original names.
9. **If this idea becomes a reality, what will change at Miles?** There will be no changes in healthcare services at Miles. Miles will need to reduce its number of inpatient beds from 38 to 25. It must also have an average inpatient length of stay of no more than 96 hours (4 days). With a current average daily census of 20 inpatients, Miles will be able to accommodate patients needing inpatient care with 25 beds. Our current average length of stay is in line with the 96 hours requirement.
10. **If you're not certain, why are you announcing this plan?** The communities we serve have made it clear that they want to be kept informed about our deliberations and ideas before decisions are made. It's important for us to be transparent so our communities will understand what we are doing, and more importantly, why we are making changes.

