

FIXING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: It's all about working together.

National health reform is part of improving health care. As President and CEO of Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles, I've

seen how innovative thinking and bold partnerships here at home can lead to real victories for patients and providers.

Our mission here has always been to provide the highest level of care in the community, so residents don't have to travel long distances to get the care they need. In The Dalles, we're fortunate to have many outstanding physicians. Even so, we've seen a growing number of patients leaving the region or facing long delays for certain kinds of care.

The fact is, smaller communities don't have enough volume to recruit the specialists and subspecialists patients sometimes need. Our solution was to look for a partner who shared our vision of providing as

much care as possible in the community. Through an innovative collaboration with OHSU, we found exactly that.

Today, thanks to this partnership, an OHSU cardiologist and orthopedic specialists practice up to four days a week in our community. The physicians retain their faculty status and research practices at OHSU. Costs are shared.

Most importantly, our patients have greater access to high quality care, right here in the community. For OHSU, it's one of a growing number of programs to match health care resources with the places they're needed most. This kind of partnership is what rural health care is going to look like in the long term. By seeking solutions together, positive change is within reach.



Duane Francis
President and CEO, Mid-Columbia Medical Center

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Eleventh in a series.
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