



# CITY OF SWEET HOME COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE AGENDA

January 28, 2026, 4:00 PM  
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street  
Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

## Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

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## Meeting Information

The City of Sweet Home is streaming the meeting via the Microsoft Teams platform and asks the public to consider this option. There will be opportunity for public input via the live stream. To view the meeting live, online visit <http://live.sweethomeor.gov>. If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 971-203-2871 and enter the meeting ID followed by the # sign to be logged in to the call. Meeting ID: # 588 565 49

## Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

### Roll Call

#### Approval of Minutes

- a) [2025-11-19 Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

## Recognition of Visitors / Public Comment

### Community Partner Presentations

- a) Western University – Dr. Jeannie Davis

### Old Business

- a) [Samaritan Health Labor & Delivery Update](#)
- b) Communication Board Update

### New Business

- a) Community Outreach
- b) City Council Goals/Committee Goal-Setting
- c) City Council Presentations

### Committee Business for the Good of the Order

[Suicide Prevention Training](#)

### Adjournment

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*The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.*





# Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2025, 4:00 PM  
Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street  
Sweet Home, OR 97386

## Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

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## Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

## Roll Call

### PRESENT

Chair Kelsey Ann Wray  
Vice Chair Bob Dalton  
Committee Member Dr. Larry Horton  
Committee Member Dick Knowles  
Committee Member Wanda Jones  
Committee Member Shirley Schumacher

### ABSENT

Committee Member Michael Grenz

### STAFF

Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager  
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager

## Approval of Minutes

- a) 2025-10-22 Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Dalton moved to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2025 Community Health Committee meeting. Committee Member Horton seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Wray, Dalton, Horton, Knowles, Jones, Schumacher

NAY: None

ABSENT: Grenz

## Recognition of Visitors / Public Comment

There were no visitors to be heard.

## Old Business

- a) Park Communication Board

Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that \$375 had been raised to date and that there had been little traction through the GoFundMe. Vice Chair Dalton stated that he had reached out to local partners about the donation opportunity. Chair Wray suggested reaching out to the school district to share about the fundraising effort.

No action was required for this item.

b) Food Resources, Volunteering, Community Support

Vice Chair Dalton stated that he was supportive of asking for temporary rate reductions for non-profits and was currently working with community partners to explore options.

Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in recruiting volunteers for local support organizations and the importance of involving younger generations in volunteer opportunities.

No action was required for this item.

c) Rotary Presentation (Committee Member Jones)

Committee Member Jones stated that Catherine Rupkus, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Samaritan Health, would present at the Rotary Club on January 6<sup>th</sup> regarding internal suicide prevention at Samaritan as well as her work with the Tri-County Suicide Care Coalition.

No action was required for this item.

**New Business**

a) Green Peter Drawdown

Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that the current year's drawdown was underway but turbidity was not as severe as previous years so there were not yet impacts to the City's water system.

No action was required for this item.

**Committee Business for the Good of the Order**

Vice Chair Dalton challenged the Committee to examine root causes of community health issues and to examine their involvement to become a more effective Committee. He noted that there were more opportunities for community engagement and collaboration with other organizations and stakeholders.

Discussion ensued regarding challenges securing transportation to medical appointments and access to medical services.

December Meeting

There was consensus not to hold a Committee meeting in December.

Committee Member Schumacher stated that she attended the Informed and Ready training in Albany and noted that 17% of people did not have any plan in place in cases of emergency.

**Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Leslie Fager, [lfager@samhealth.org](mailto:lfager@samhealth.org)

### **Samaritan temporarily pauses Lebanon labor and delivery services due to regional OB-GYN workforce shortage**

Safety plans are in place and commitment to restoring services remains strong

(Dec. 18, 2025 -- CORVALLIS, Ore.) — Samaritan Health Services announced today that labor and delivery services at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital will be temporarily paused beginning Jan. 15, 2026, due to a significant regional shortage of OB-GYN physicians that has made continuous inpatient coverage unavailable.

This decision follows a series of unexpected physician departures across the Valley, including the resignation of OB-GYN physicians at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital and the simultaneous departure of OB-GYN physicians at another regional practice. Together, these events have created a regional workforce disruption that significantly limits available OB-GYN coverage.

Despite extensive and ongoing recruitment efforts – including a broad national search, outreach to physician staffing agencies and independent clinicians, and exploration of temporary coverage options – Samaritan has not yet been able to secure the continuous inpatient physician call coverage required to safely operate labor and delivery services in Lebanon.

“Patient safety is always our highest priority,” said Jennifer Kimberlain, vice president of patient care services at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. “Labor and delivery services require consistent, around-the-clock physician coverage. Without that, operating intermittently or repeatedly going on diversion would create confusion and risk for families who would not know when it is safe to present for care. This pause is temporary, and we remain fully committed to restoring labor and delivery services in Lebanon as quickly and safely as possible.”

Following review and the recommendation of clinicians, nurses and operational leaders, Samaritan determined that a temporary pause is the safest course of action until appropriate clinician staffing can be secured.

During this time, Samaritan will continue to provide outpatient OB-GYN care at the Lebanon Health Center located on Fifth Street on a limited basis and is hopeful that temporary clinician staffing may allow labor and delivery services to resume as early as April 2026.

In the meantime, pregnant patients who are anticipating delivery after mid-January should work with their doctor to select a different delivery location. Labor and delivery services at Samaritan’s other hospitals will continue without disruption.

### **Support for Patients, Families and Employees**

To support patients and staff during this temporary pause, Samaritan has implemented several measures including:

- Providing individualized outreach and concierge support to help expectant parents transition care to Albany or Corvallis
- Implementing safe transfer protocols for urgent and emergent situations

- Keeping our highly skilled labor and delivery nurses onsite to assist the Emergency Department with any obstetric emergencies
- Partnering with the Oregon Nurses Association to explore temporary staffing solutions and redeployment opportunities for our nurses during this period—no layoffs will occur

Earlier this year, Samaritan hosted more than 70 community and employee listening sessions and publicly reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining labor and delivery services at all five Samaritan hospitals. That commitment remains unchanged. This temporary pause is driven solely by patient safety and current workforce realities and is unrelated to the proposed affiliation or earlier service evaluations.

We will continue to provide updates and share progress as we work toward restoring services. For more information and FAQs, please visit [samhealth.org/LebanonOB-GYN](https://samhealth.org/LebanonOB-GYN).

### **About Samaritan Health Services**

Samaritan Health Services is a nonprofit regional health system that brings together five community hospitals, more than 100 physician clinics and multiple health insurance plans to serve more than 290,000 residents in Oregon’s Benton, Lincoln and Linn counties. Samaritan employs more than 5,000 workers including 620 clinicians and is governed by a volunteer board of community members and physicians.

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# *In Sweet Home* **QPR**

## Suicide Prevention Training

### **Ask a Question. Save a Life.**

**Question. Persuade. Refer.** Three life-saving skills you can learn to help prevent suicide in adults and youth.

#### **You will gain skills to:**

- Understand the myths and facts about suicide
- Recognize suicide clues and warning signs in adults and youth
- Ask someone if they are thinking about suicide
- Persuade someone to stay alive and safe during a crisis
- Refer someone to professional and community resources

**March 9, 2026, 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**Sweet Home Public Library**

**1101 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sweet Home, Oregon**

#### **Who should attend:**

Community members • Employers • Parents • Educators  
Caregivers • Coaches • Faith leaders • Family members

**Sponsored by Linn County Health Services at no cost to you.**

This training is open to individuals ages 18 and older.  
Registration is required.

For more information or to register:  
[linntogether.org/community-training](https://linntogether.org/community-training).