

Notes from meeting with **Melody Ayers the Interim Director of philanthropy and volunteers** at Adventist Health:

Melody answered questions and presented printed material to support our agenda. (health care power of attorney)

1. AH does have a hospice program but does not have palliative care.
2. “Wellspring” is a service offered by AH that takes care of an adult that needs constant supervision for up to several hours a day to give caretakers a break. The fee is \$30.00/day. Admittance needs MD approval.
3. Grief support is available at AH by the Chaplain service. Tracy Welch is the contact person.
4. POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) was discussed:

This is an important document explaining an individual’s wishes for emergency care. It is common knowledge that it is posted on the refrigerator door in a residence.

Per a phone call to EMT trained Tillamook employee and Dave Audet one of our volunteer firefighters, POLST training is emphasized and very important information. Do not want to have a discussion or debate regarding DNR status in an emergent situation.

5. Death with dignity or assisted death is not a supported at Adventist Health.

6. What is the cost of an ambulance ride?

Ambulance and helicopter insurance information was offered. (\$85.00/year air, \$50.00-\$95.00/year Air-Med)

This is an important service: there is no cath lab in Tillamook!

7. What happens when a person dies at home?

If the person is under the care of a hospice program then the caregiver calls hospice and they take care of everything.

If a person dies at home, call 911 to report a non emergency. The medical examiner will be called to pronounce death. Dr. Betlinski is the Tillamook County medical examiner. Mike Waud is the Funeral Home director and person to contact regarding body disposition in Tillamook. A body needs to be in a cooler or embalmed within 48 hours per Oregon Law.

Notes from phone call with **Megan Swenson** , Nurse manager for **Adventist Health**:

Nurse managers (there are three at Adventist) work with specific Adventist Health doctors only.

Phone = 503-815-7561

Asked random questions regarding AH community patient support:

1. Pt. is assessed for need of assistance before hospital D/C. Need is provided after a doctor's order has been written to include:
 - a. Wound care, blood work
 - b. Physical therapy
 - c. Occupational therapy
 - d. Diabetes education and follow up
 - e. Social work visits (to assess home environment and need for placement options)

These services are provided if a person is home bound or it is very difficult to get to a clinic for care.

Meal prep and caregiving management can be provided if the person qualifies physically and has financial hardship. These clients are referred through Aging and Senior disability.

There is no staffing to provide daily care. Clients must pay for these services out of pocket.

Phone call to Caregivers support out of Astoria: “**Caring for the Coast**” (503-325-4503)

This organization employs caregivers and covers Tillamook

- a. Personal care assistance
- b. Medication management
- c. Nursing services
- d. Companion care
- e. Transportation
- f. Respite care

A client calls this service. Then, this company comes out to assess the client and home environment and collaborate on what is needed. There is limited nurse services and the cost per hour is higher for nurse services.

This organization accepts Medicaid (not Medicare), OPI (Oregon Project Independence...state funded by NW Senior Disabilities), VA coverage, and private pay.

Cost as of today 6/18/25 is \$38.00/hour for full service (list above)

Discount for couples is \$43.00/hour

Private pay clients can even receive pet care (walking, feeding, etc)

Transportation in Tillamook County:

1. Uber (you need the Uber app)
2. The Wave bus from Tillamook to Portland or Coastal destinations.
3. Dial a Ride (“curb to curb”) Call at least 12 hours in advance.