



For Release: Monday, October 31, 2022

---

## CONFLUENCE HEALTH WILL FOCUS HIRING ON CLINICAL POSITIONS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE PATIENT SERVICES

**Wenatchee, WA:** Confluence Health recently announced that it would focus its hiring on fulfilling clinical positions. Employees to fill clinical positions which directly administer and support patient care are being actively recruited, but Confluence Health will place a temporary freeze on hiring most non-clinical positions. This initiative is meant to be temporary in nature.

“Patients are our priority and we want to focus for the time being on hiring positions with a direct impact on patient care,” commented Dr. Andrew Jones, CEO for Confluence Health. “Additionally, we want to ensure that we are keeping Confluence Health on sound, sustainable financial footing and getting back to budget during this time when so many healthcare systems are struggling financially. This temporary initiative will help ensure that we will be in a good position to continue to provide the best in care, and we do that by keeping our financial house in order.”

Healthcare systems around the country have been facing financial challenges as the threat of the pandemic winds down and changes. Confluence Health has not been immune to the challenges facing the healthcare industry and, during the third quarter of 2022, was [faced with a \\$13 million loss](#) due to many factors, including lack of adequate compensation for care from Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement, the rising cost of travelers, and the end of COVID-related relief funding. As a locally controlled, independent healthcare system, Confluence Health felt that these challenges must be addressed. Other facilities, faced with similar challenges, [have been acquired by outside organizations](#). To keep Confluence Health on sound, sustainable footing and to maintain its independence, CEO Dr. Andrew Jones, and the board of directors, knew that action must be taken.

“We need to make thoughtful decisions to ensure that Confluence Health remains locally controlled and independent,” continued Jones. “These aren’t easy decisions but are important to make sure that we get back to budget so that we can continue to provide quality care for our communities for the long haul.”

While this announcement means that filling most non-clinical roles will be delayed during the freeze, some positions crucial to patient care will continue to be hired on a case-by-case basis. There are no plans to lay off or eliminate any current staff or providers, and Confluence Health is still actively recruiting and hiring for clinical positions, including registered nurses (RNs), certified medical assistants (MA-Cs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs), and many other clinical positions.

### About Confluence Health

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over 12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health, the Clinic, Central Washington Hospital, and Wenatchee Valley Hospital, and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

### For More Information

Katie Grove, *Marketing & Communications Director*

[katharine.grove@ConfluenceHealth.org](mailto:katharine.grove@ConfluenceHealth.org)

509-885-0444

###

Adam MacDonald, *Corporate Communications Program Manager*

[adam.macdonald@ConfluenceHealth.org](mailto:adam.macdonald@ConfluenceHealth.org)