



October 8, 2015

Victoria Wachino, Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Washington Application for Medicaid Transformation Waiver

Dear Ms. Wachino,

The Health Philanthropy Partnership strongly supports Washington State's proposed Medicaid Transformation waiver. This federal support will provide an unprecedented opportunity to bring successful models to scale, positioning our state to achieve the Triple Aim of better health, better care at lower costs.

The Health Philanthropy Partnership (HPP) represents a group of funders in Washington State originally formed to maximize opportunities of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and to minimize the impacts of state budget cuts on local government, providers and the people they serve. Members of the HPP include Building Changes, The Chuckanut Health Foundation, Empire Health Foundation, Foundation for Healthy Generations, The Seattle Foundation and The Washington Dental Service Foundation.

HPP works to explore how to bring ideas of coordination and collaboration around healthcare to Washington State as well as how to support Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) as they seek to build widespread support and collective action for healthcare reform at the local level.

Earlier this year, the Health Care Authority awarded its ACH Technical Assistance Project to Empire Health Foundation acting on behalf of the HPP. As a means of extending and expanding the Health Care Authority's investment of funds into technical assistance project for the emerging ACHs, HPP members have committed to a collaborative funding model that brings significant cash and in-kind matching. In addition to the extensive expertise and financial

resources brought to this project through these six philanthropic organizations, HPP partners have assembled a diverse network of 16 additional Technical Assistance Consultants with extensive expertise and decades of experience in areas relevant to strong ACHs, including organizational infrastructure, sustainability planning, stakeholder engagement, change management, regional needs assessment/resource inventories, and creating health priorities.

This technical assistance work is particularly timely given the significant proposed role for ACHs under the Medicaid transformation waiver as Coordinating Entities. Our Technical Assistance project is designed to strengthen the skills necessary for success and we stand ready to provide intermediary support for those ACHs who can benefit from our supplemental assistance. This intermediary support could be provided through financial, Information Technology and Human Resources backbone support as well as the management of Delivery System Reform Incentive Payments.

Washington State's Medicaid Transformation Waiver represents the next step in our overall effort to achieve the Triple Aim of better health, better care at lower costs. We support and are excited about the promise of the proposed waiver, particularly its focus on the role of the Social Determinants of Health in health outcomes and the use of ACHs to organize transformational activities.

We stand ready to partner with the state to ensure success.

Sincerely,



Alice Shobe
Building Changes



Sue Sharpe
Chuckanut Health Foundation



Kristen West Fisher
Empire Health Foundation



Melanie Gillespie
Foundation for Healthy Generations



Ceil Erickson
Seattle Foundation



Laura Smith
Washington Dental Service Foundation