



February 16, 2016

Dorothy Teeter, Director
Health Care Authority

Re: Washington Medicaid Waiver Transformation Project Comments

Dear Director Teeter,

Empire Health Foundation (EHF) enthusiastically supports Washington State's ground breaking and innovative Waiver proposal that positions our State to achieve the Triple Aim of better care, better health, at reduced costs. The Medicaid Waiver will provide flexibility and a federal funding vehicle for locally determined investments and reinvestment of savings into "upstream" root causes of poor health outcomes and the social determinants of health via proposed Coordinating Entities.

EHF stands ready to partner with the Health Care Authority to further build the community capacity to put the waiver to work as soon as possible. With an \$80 million endowment, more than \$4 million in annual grant making and role as the contractor for the HCA's Accountable Community of Health Technical Assistance project, EHF is well positioned to leverage this effort for maximum impact and results. We are in the process of establishing first-in-class back office supports for organizations such as Better Health Together to further accelerate opportunities such as the Waiver.

EHF enjoys a symbiotic relationship with our region's Accountable Community of Health, Better Health Together (BHT). BHT is as an EHF subsidiary and we provide back-office support to their organization. EHF invests in BHT's ACH efforts because of our belief to radically improve health we must transform the way we deliver health in our region. The Accountable Community of Health and the Medicaid Waiver provide an exciting opportunity to align existing efforts with new resources leverage more opportunities. We are particularly supportive of transformation projects that further our region's ACH priorities, including Community Health Workers, reduction in obesity, oral health and cross-sector initiatives that address social determinants of health.

Empire Health Foundation remains supportive of the waiver's direction and stands poised to partner with the Health Care Authority in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antony Chiang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Antony Chiang
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen West Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Kristen West Fisher
Vice President Programs