

January 15, 2016

Washington State Health Care Authority
Global Medicaid Transformation Team

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Pierce County Accountable Community of Health (ACH) enthusiastically endorses the Global Medicaid Waiver transformation project proposal “Behavioral Health Integration Program: Building an evidence-based, integrated foundation within Washington’s primary care system” by Community Health Plan of Washington.

Partners of the ACH feel this proposal supports our local priorities, the aim of Washington’s Global Medicaid Waiver and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ goals.

Specifically, we appreciate the emphasis on wrap-around, community and social supports to carry out project elements embedded within the continuum of care. If approved, we believe the implementation of this project will be strengthened if it addresses other social, economic and environmental factors that influence health. The Pierce ACH will want to position the project to support a multisectorial approach—including transportation, housing, and business—and that integrates Community Health Workers. In this spirit, all members of the ACH will be fully engaged, realizing the full intention of ACHs.

We also appreciate the deliberate integration of behavioral health interventions into multiple points of contact with patients. We aspire to a model that for any clinical issue (eg, mental health, substance abuse, diabetes, cervical cancer), we should have interventions that span the spectrum from community awareness to specialized treatment (Figure 1).

To conclude, the Pierce ACH enthusiastically endorses this project proposal and urges the Washington State Health Care Authority to approve it.

Sincerely,



Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH

Director of Health

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Interim Backbone Organization for the Pierce County Accountable Community of Health

Figure 1.0: For any clinical issue (e.g., mental health, substance abuse, diabetes, cervical cancer), it is imperative to think of interventions at all points we can contact patients.

