



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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August 29, 2016

Alison White
Vice President Community Development
Empire Foundation
Executive Director
Better Health Together

Dear Ms. White:

SUBJECT: Value Based Purchasing Roadmap

Thank you for your correspondence of August 5, 2016 providing feedback on the Health Care Authority's Value-Based Roadmap. We appreciate the effort that you and the Better Health Together (BHT) Board of Directors have made to consider the roadmap's implications and opportunities for Accountable Communities of Health (ACH). You note the collaborative nature of the relationship between ACHs which, among other benefits, fosters shared learning and best practices. We fully intend to support the ACH collaborations as we learn together.

It is important to note that achievement of value-based payment (VBP) goals is not represented by a fixed mark, but rather by accomplishment along a continuum of possible methods of payment as related to performance (as illustrated in Chart 2 of the roadmap). We believe this sets the bar at an achievable level for most providers, even if they are moving simply from fee-for-service to an arrangement that rewards quality performance.

ACHs are not expected to achieve this transformation alone. The Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) play a central role in VBP goal attainment (and, unlike the ACHs, face both rewards and penalties related to their performance). We are encouraged by the strong working relationships we have observed between ACHs and MCOs; and the roadmap is intended to reinforce that partnership by aligning incentives for financially rewarding outcomes.

You have appropriately emphasized, in your thoughtful letter, the importance of shared experiences across ACHs. We have witnessed, and will continue to encourage and support, such shared learning. To that end, we are happy to work with you and the other ACH representatives to identify and develop approaches to achieving the roadmap's goals of better value and better health for all.

Sincerely,

Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA
Director

Nathan Johnson
Chief Policy Officer

By email