



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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October 9, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Wachino:

Response to Washington State Application for Medicaid Transformation Waiver

I submit this letter on behalf of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to express my agency's support of the Washington State Health Care Authority's 1115 Medicaid Waiver application. Our sister agency engaged in a broad stakeholder engagement process to inform and improve this application, and we expect this level of interaction and responsiveness will continue as we engage in the extensive, iterative process of future development.

There are several things that make Washington's approach to health systems transformation unique, and they are reflected in this waiver application. These are:

- The central role of the Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs). We at DOH, and the broader governmental public health system, remain committed to working with the ACHs to set them up for success in transforming health systems to support whole person health. While the focus of this application is on making improvements and achieving savings in the systems that serve Medicaid populations, we see that the approaches that the state takes as "first mover" have great potential to influence other systems that serve the needs of other parts of the population.
- The systems approach to creating something new. Washington realizes that it cannot just make changes in a single area, like payment systems or delivery systems, to achieve the Triple Aim. All health systems transformation efforts are focused on creating changes across the entire health enterprise, including community. All efforts are also being aligned so that services are not duplicated and gaps are addressed. This waiver would accelerate initiatives that are already moving forward in our state, and these alignments are well-demonstrated in the waiver application.
- A real commitment to sustainability. Washington's health systems transformation efforts do not consist of stringing together a series of pilot projects, but in building structure that will take our state into a future that supports health. Laws are being written and changed, technology infrastructure is being built, community relationships are being formed, knowledge and expertise are being enhanced, and investment/re-investment strategies are being constructed at the systems level, all with the intention of supporting health in our state for future generations.

Victoria Wachino, Director

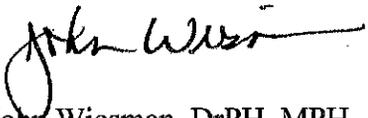
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Additionally, as the state's public health entity, we appreciate the way this waiver application introduces opportunities to enhance efforts related to prevention and health equity, issues that are central to my agency's mission.

We are excited about the work ahead to make Washington a healthier place to live, work, play, learn, and worship and look forward to working with your agency, Health Care Authority, and all of our partners to shape the transformation waiver projects and to supporting the ACHs to be successful in their regional transformation efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wiesman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health