

October 8, 2015

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

Subject: Public Comments on Washington State's Section 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver Application

Dear Ms. Wachino,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Washington State's application for a Section 1115 Medicaid waiver to transform health care in our state. The Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA), on behalf of the 99 hospitals and health systems in our state, and the Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts (AWPHD), on behalf of 42 public hospital districts, supports the intent of the waiver application submitted by the Washington State Health Care Authority.

Hospitals and health systems in our state are working hard to improve quality, focus on the health of the population, and control the cost of health care. WSHA recognizes the opportunity a demonstration waiver could bring to advance the goals of the triple aim in our state. In particular, the focus on the integration of mental health and physical health in the application is an area of strong support for the Associations.

WSHA, AWPHD, and our member hospitals and health systems see ourselves as critical partners in the transformation work outlined in Washington State's application. We look forward to continued involvement and encourage the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to give our state an opportunity to make critical changes to our health care system through a transformation waiver.

If you have any question, please contact Claudia Sanders, Senior Vice President, Policy Development at claudias@wsha.org or 206-216-2508.

Sincerely,



Scott Bond
Chief Executive Officer
Washington State Hospital Association



Ben Lindekugel
Executive Director
Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts