



December 9, 2013

Southwest Washington Behavioral Health (SWBH) Regional Support Network
Governance Board
P.O. Box 664
Vancouver, WA 98666

Dear Clark County Commissioner David Madore, Cowlitz County Commissioner Jim Misner and Skamania County Commissioner Chris Brong:

The Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance (RHA) Board of Directors is writing this letter to inform you of our efforts and to seek clarification from SWBH regarding future plans.

As Washington State implements healthcare reform, the SWWA community has determined that the best strategy to serve our residents necessitates us working together towards solutions rather than forging a singular path. In September 2010, the RHA was formed through a public/private partnership to work with state agencies to achieve the Triple Aim: improved health for the population, better care for individuals and reduced costs. The goal is to manage resources efficiently and effectively by collaborating to improve services while working with local governments (Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum and Klickitat counties), Cowlitz Tribal government, State government, health plans serving at-risk, vulnerable low-income populations, hospitals, local community service providers, emergency responders and most importantly, the community and people served.

Recently, the Governor sent out a notice announcing his plan to fully integrate Medicaid medical and behavioral health funding and the selection of risk bearing entities that will cover 7-9 regions to manage the funds through a Medicaid procurement process. The RHA Board facilitated a broadly attended retreat on October 25 and 26th in an effort to help the RHA decide how to best implement the State's plan. The goal was to collect information from a diverse cross section of community partners, taking into consideration the best interest of the people we serve. After gathering input from retreat participants, the Board decided to explore the idea of creating a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) similar to HealthShare in Portland. SWBH was one of the stakeholders invited to participate in the retreat. The RHA has made many attempts, including a recent formal request, to include SWBH in the RHA efforts and community planning process.

On Monday November 18th, Connie Mom-Chhing and Marc Bollinger met with County Leads and RHA Board Members Kirby Richards, Vanessa Gaston and Carlos Carreon, also in attendance was DeDe Sieler and David Kelly. The intent of the meeting was to follow up with SWBH and put forth a formal request to invite them to join the RHA Board of Directors. During the meeting, Connie stated that SWBH will not be joining the RHA Board based on advice from her legal counsel (Stoel Rives). She stated that SWBH viewed her participation as a conflict due



to the intention of SWBH to contract with a medical health plan and jointly submits a proposal to Healthcare Authority's integrated Medicaid funding procurement. She also shared that it is her intent, at the December 20th SWBH Governance Board meeting, to request approval to retain via contract, Triwest to write the proposal. Connie followed up by sending a letter to the RHA Board President on November 22nd (see attachment). After receiving Connie's letter, the RHA Board has serious concerns about the direction that SWBH is proposing to go, especially since it doesn't include any of the community providers or stakeholders and does not have the support of the major medical providers in the Region. The RHA Board is requesting that the SWBH Governance Board make a formal decision to work with the RHA to develop a regional plan working in partnership and collaboration to provide the best care for the most vulnerable population. The RHA Board is more than willing to talk to the SWBH Board about our work. There will be RHA representatives at the December 20th SWBH Board meeting. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 360-571-3001 or Duane.C.Rogers@nsmtp.kp.org.

Sincerely,

Duane C. Rogers
Board President
SWWA Regional Health Alliance Board of Directors