

February 3, 2012

SB 1580

Senate Health Care, Human Services and Rural Health Policy
Committee

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members,

We would like to share with you our Principles for Transformation in
the development of the Coordinated Care Organizations, below:

2012 Principles for Health Care Transformation / CCOs

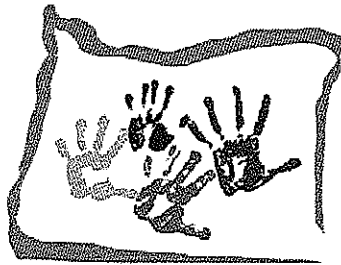
Accountability Must Be Required - - Decisions for global budget
distribution and annual work plans need to be transparent. Local
providers, non-profits and community members should be able to
participate in, and attend, board meetings and CCO discussions
that lead to decisions made on these critical issues.

Don't Leave Kids Out - - Children's programs offer one of the
greatest opportunities for long term savings in the health system.
CCOs should be required to incorporate children's programs into
their model, and shall be required to demonstrate outcomes that
intercept children at risk of mental, dependency, or physical trauma.
Include the children's non-profit provider community. Include them
on the Community Advisory Board, which should have quarterly
meetings with the Governing Board, and which should be part of an
annual review and vote on the CCO work plan and global budget.

Budget Cuts Will Lead to Cost Increases - - Change in the face
of 15-20% cuts be difficult, if not impossible.

- A 2007 health specialist cost study indicated children's
mental health providers were 75% behind what Washington
and other states paid clinicians because of poor
reimbursement rates.
- Over 5 years ago providers were reimbursed at 40% less
than costs, a statistic that has gotten lower.

Further cuts will lead to elimination of providers and services
available for children. This forces children into emergency services
and increases juvenile justice numbers. Federal incentive monies
must be tied to innovation and transformation, and providers must
be included in eligibility for these incoming federal funds.



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Timeline Shouldn't Be Forced - - Automatically granting CCO status to certain large organizations on a "fast tracked" basis by July of this year may inadvertently leave out key organizations from being involved in CCOs from the first step. CCO development should be encouraged in a reasonable time frame, and be inclusive.

Education Should be Integrated with Kids Treatment Programs - - Kids cannot be successful in school if they are not healthy. High intensity treatment programs for children are particularly important. Links must be established between the state's CCO model and efforts with the Early Learning Council/Youth Development Council, etc. State reforms should not eliminate existing programs and systems that are producing results.

Thank you.