



April 16, 2013

Health Share of Oregon Comments on SB 373

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 373, which would require coordinated care organizations (CCOs) to provide oral health services through existing dental care organizations (DCOs) unless there is no DCO in its service area. CCOs contract with the State to provide high quality, high value, coordinated care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. Health Share of Oregon is the state's largest CCO, serving approximately 165,000 members in the Tri-County area. Health Share was created through collaboration of 11 existing organizations that serve OHP members and is organized as a private non-profit corporation.

The purpose of CCOs was to integrate physical, behavioral, and oral health care for Oregon Health Plan members. This bill undermines that purpose by maintaining a separate oral health care system that predated the development of CCOs and their mission of full integration. This bill also abruptly changes the conditions of dental care integration under which Health Share has been working since the inception of the CCO and distracts us from the work of health transformation.

Under current law, CCOs are able to work together with DCOs and other dental providers in their communities in the way that makes the most sense for their service area. Health Share's service area includes eight DCOs.

We have reviewed the -5 amendments, and they do not assuage our concerns. These amendments would require Health Share to create "mutually agreeable" contracts with all eight DCOs prior to obtaining the ability to contract with other dental providers in its service area that are not currently affiliated with a DCO. This would create additional barriers to providing oral health care through organizations within Health Share's provider network that are not DCOs, such as Federally Qualified Health Centers or Kaiser Permanente.

Further, DCOs already have the ability to consolidate under current law, and we hope that those in our service area consider doing so. In that respect, the amendments are unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to express Health Share of Oregon's concerns with SB 373; we urge your opposition to the bill.

Respectfully submitted by Janet L. Meyer, Chief Executive Officer