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Oregon Legislature

Dear Legislators & Interested Stakeholders,

The Oregon Health Policy Board is committed to policies and programs that provide Oregonians with better care and better health at a lower cost. The Board spent much of 2016 listening to community feedback regarding Oregon's coordinated care model and developed a set of recommendations to be implemented in 2019 contracts with coordinated care organizations (CCOs). As the 2017 Legislative session progresses, we're heartened to see our recommendations being carefully considered by legislators and stakeholders and write this letter to clearly convey important components of our recommendations.

The [final report](#) contains 12 policy focus areas and recommendations. Most recommendations can be accomplished through rule change and contract inclusion, though some may benefit from statutory changes and a few likely must be implemented through statute. Some of our key recommendations are summarized below.

1) Require CCO contracts to clearly state that CCO's top priority and motivation is better health, better care and lower costs.

Mandatory focus on the delivery of better health, better care and lower costs for all Oregonians should be the most important driver for CCO services. More rigorous contract oversight by OHA may help address issues related to corporate structure through transparency without prescribing the details of that structure, thereby staying true to the goal of seeing improved outcomes and providing local flexibility and control. Additionally, the state's minimum loss ratio policy (as approved recently in Oregon's 1115 Medicaid waiver) as well as improved fiscal transparency, specifically through transparent visibility for profit margins and reserves, as well as clear statewide expectations for reserve reinvestment in local communities is essential to a sustainable funding model that meets the needs of Oregon's diverse communities.

2) Ensure a Transparent & Public Process for CCO board members and meetings:

OHPB recommendations are very specific on how to ensure a transparent and public process because the public feedback we received during our statewide listening sessions was very specific. We believe community informed and advised CCOs are the best path forward towards more inclusive, locally responsive and controlled healthcare delivery systems and that this can be accomplished through contract requirements which require more public meetings, improved Community Advisory Council collaboration and additional transparency.

3) Address the Social Determinants of Health & Health Equity Disparities:

Ensure social determinants of health are addressed through community partnerships, collaborative community health assessments, community health improvement plans and transformation plans.

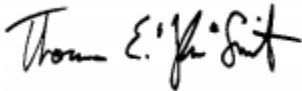
The state and federal health policy landscape is rapidly evolving, and we remain steadfast in our belief that until addressed, social determinants will continue to impact the success of improvement for sustainable community health. We strongly believe that CCOs must be empowered and charged to work collaboratively and across jurisdictions to address the social determinates of health and health equity disparities.

4) Accelerate Integration & Focus on Value Based Healthcare Purchasing:

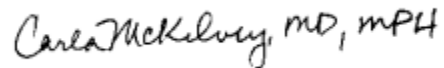
Health System Transformation is dependent on the clear priority to pay for value rather than services to ensure a fiscally sustainable model. Oregon can continue its leadership role in health care reform by continuing to develop definitions, standards and expectations for Oregonians to receive care that is reimbursed based on its value relative to improved health. CCOs are in a position to lead these efforts and many are already doing so.

This is only a brief summary of a few of our most important policy recommendations and we strongly urge you to [review the full report](#) for more detail on these recommendations as well as additional recommendations related to workforce, high cost drugs and health care integration.

Thank you for the opportunity to help inform this important conversation. Please don't hesitate to reach out the Board with any questions you may have.



Zeke Smith,
Chair, Oregon Health Policy Board



Carla McKelvey, M.D.
Vice-Chair, Oregon Health Policy Board



/sig Brenda Johnson



/sig Dr. Joe Robertson



/sig Comis. Karen Joplin



/sig Oscar Arana



/sig Felisa Hagins