



Service Employees International Union, Local 73
Doctors Council, Service Employees International Union
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March 16, 2012

Bureau of Program and Reimbursement Analysis
Division of Medical Programs
Healthcare and Family Services
201 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62763-0002
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RE: Letter of Support for 1115 Waiver

To Whom It May Concern:

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73 represents approximately 1,500 hospital and clinic workers in the Cook County Health & Hospital System (CCHHS), including technicians, professionals, and service & maintenance units. Doctors Council SEIU represents the attending physicians throughout the System.

On behalf of Local 73 and the Doctors Council and our members working throughout CCHHS, we would like to express our enthusiastic support for the 1115 Waiver being pursued by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Cook County, and CCHHS.

Our Union Supports the Care Coordination Model Being Implemented for the Waiver.

Along with the shift to a patient-centered "medical home" model of care, we expect the 1115 Waiver will not only reduce the cost of care, but will provide a better healthcare experience to our patients, and improve the overall health of the populations we serve. Our Union is fully supportive of the transformation to a patient-centered medical home model, one which will coordinate care for Medicaid patients throughout our System and with our community partners. Our Union is currently working with CCHHS leadership to implement a coordinated care network for our patients, and we are playing a strongly supportive role in operationalizing the staffing and other changes that will make the Waiver successful.

The 1115 Waiver Will Save the CCHHS System and Will Save Money.

We believe that the 1115 Waiver is critical to the survival of the public health system. The 1115 Waiver would be entirely funded by Cook County and matched with federal funds. As such the Waiver will not only be cost-neutral for the State of Illinois, but will also allow CCHHS to decrease its uninsured population and provide funds to improve the quality, coordination, and

cost-effectiveness of the care it provides. The Health System is creating a coordinated care network that is connecting patients with primary care physicians, thus shifting the emphasis of care from emergency to primary care. Thus, the operational changes necessary for the Waiver emphasize preventative, patient-centered care, while decreasing the expensive, crisis-oriented emergency care that is common to our patient populations.

The Waiver Will Strengthen the Health Care Safety Net and is Consistent with State Goals.

In addition, the 1115 Waiver will strengthen the largest provider of charity care, CCHHS, by allowing it to enroll more uninsured patients in Medicaid and thereby changing the payer mix. It will also relieve some of the burden of charity care from other safety-net institutions which are struggling to survive. Finally, the care model being implemented is consistent with the state's strategy of reducing future Medical costs through managed care and integrated health delivery. Our Union supports this strategy and continues to offer our assistance and cooperation in making it successful.

Sincerely yours,



Christine Boardman
SEIU Local 73



Emilie Junge
Doctors Council SEIU