



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

LISA PIERCEY, MD, MBA, FAAP
COMMISSIONER

September 29, 2020

Mr. Alan Levine
Executive Chairman, President, and CEO
Ballad Health
400 N. State of Franklin Road
Johnson City, TN 37604

Subject: Modification to the Health Research and Graduate Medical Education Plan

Mr. Levine:

I have received your letter, dated September 18, 2020, requesting to modify the previously approved Health Research and Graduate Medical Education (HR/GME) Plan. According to your letter, Ballad Health wishes to provide financial support to a medical legal partnership program designed by Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business (VT) and the Appalachian School of Law (ASL). The program, as described, would furnish legal services to low-income patients and assist those patients in addressing health related social needs.

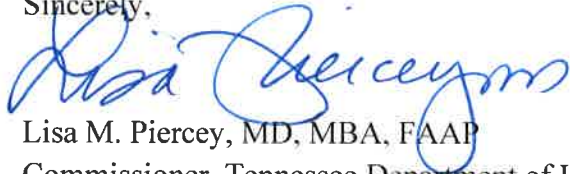
Medical legal partnerships provide an important service to patients during difficult times and certainly fit with the goal of the Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) to provide a public benefit to the residents in Ballad's service area. It also makes sense for this effort to fall under the HR/GM plan. Therefore, I approve the proposal to amend the HR/GME Plan and allow Ballad's anticipated \$2M in financial support for this initiative to qualify as HR/GME Plan spend. In accepting the proposed modification to the HR/GME Plan, the Department should receive:

- A schedule of milestones and metrics for the implementation of this training program within 30 (thirty) days of the date of this letter; and
- Updates to the Department on the achievement of the medical legal partnership milestones and metrics on the same timeline as all other HR/GME Plan updates.

Thank you for identifying this worthy opportunity and seeking approval for a plan modification.

I believe Ballad's support of the medical legal partnership training program will provide an important benefit to patients, clinical staff, and students and I am pleased that Ballad wishes to support it.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Health

Cc: The Honorable Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner
Virginia Department of Health

Tim Belisle, General Counsel
Ballad Health

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