



**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER, 5TH FLOOR  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

**LISA PIERCEY, MD, MBA, FAAP**  
COMMISSIONER

February 8, 2021

Karen Guske  
SVP, COPA Compliance Officer  
Ballad Health  
400 N. State of Franklin Road  
Johnson City, TN 37604

Subject: Ballad's Plan Extension Request

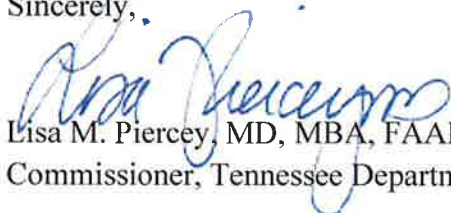
Ms. Guske:

In response to your letter, dated January 11, 2021, requesting a one-year extension of the current three-year plans which otherwise would expire June 30, 2021, the Tennessee Department of Health agrees that Ballad could not likely draft thoughtful and informed three-year strategic plans while it contends with the urgent clinical, financial, and logistical demands of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, I am granting your request for a one-year extension to each of the Behavioral Health, Children's Health, Rural Health, Population Health, HIE, and HR/GME plans, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Ballad shall update the Department on the status of each strategy listed in the existing three-year plans (identifying which strategies are still being pursued and which are no longer being pursued) by April 30, 2021.
- 2) No later than April 1, 2022, Ballad shall develop and submit to the Department for its approval a new plan for the next three full fiscal years to replace each existing plan.

Thank you for seeking formal approval for these plan extensions. We appreciate Ballad's ability to adapt and seek workable solutions during this extended period of crisis.

Sincerely,

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

Tim Belisle, General Counsel  
Ballad Health

Claire C. Haltom, Shareholder  
Baker Donelson PC

Larry Fitzgerald  
COPA Monitor

Janet M. Kleinfelter, Deputy Attorney General  
State of Tennessee

Judi Knecht, Interim COPA Director  
Tennessee Department of Health

Jeff Ockerman  
Tennessee Department of Health

Erik Bodin, Office of Licensure and Certification  
Commonwealth of Virginia