



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
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BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

LISA PIERCEY, MD, MBA, FAAP
COMMISSIONER

March 1, 2022

Mr. Alan Levine
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Ballad Health
303 Med Tech Parkway, Suite 300
Johnson City, TN 37604

RE: Proposal to Modify the HR/GME Plan to include support for the Emory and Henry College (“E&H”) Bachelor of Science in Nursing program

Dear Mr. Levine,

This letter is in response to your request under Section 3.06(c) of the Second Amended and Restated Terms of Certification, dated April 27, 2021 (“TOC”), to modify Ballad Health’s (“Ballad”) HR/GME Plan, previously approved through June 30, 2022 (“HR/GME Plan”), to support the E&H Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (“Nursing Program”). The primary objective of the Nursing Program is to increase the number of registered nurses seeking employment in the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia region.

The plan modification proposes a total proposed budget of \$2,397,960 over five (5) fiscal years beginning FY22 (the “Funding.”) As detailed in your request, the Funding will support faculty and clinical instructor hires.

It is the responsibility of the State and Ballad to ensure good stewardship of Certificate of Public Advantage (“COPA”) community investment dollars. Therefore, awardees, like E&H, should be required to account for spending of any COPA funds they receive. TDH accepts the milestones and metrics, specifically including the stated quarterly updates, in your request as sufficient to demonstrate to the public the benefits the community is receiving as a result of those investments.

TDH recognizes the critical need for nursing training programs in the region and is pleased to support the Nursing Program to expand its efforts, in conjunction with local schools, to enhance pipeline development into healthcare careers and in coordination with Ballad’s work to develop the nursing pipeline in the region, as well as the work of the Southwest Virginia Area Health Education Center.

The COPA Monitor has reviewed your proposal and certain additional information provided in response to his request, and I concur with his recommendation that the proposed modification be approved. **Therefore, the modification request is approved and the HR/GME Plan shall be amended and restated as of the date of this letter to include the Funding for the Nursing Program.** In order for expenditures after the current HR/GME Plan to be credited towards Ballad’s monetary obligations, however, Ballad must include the Nursing Program in replacement plans approved under TOC Section 3.06(b).

Thank you for your continuing efforts to serve the needs of your community. TDH is confident that granting this request will encourage “effective training for the next generation of healthcare professionals that are needed to address the healthcare needs of the Geographic Service Area” as contemplated in Section 3.03(b) of the TOC. We appreciate your involvement in this important project as well as your efforts to comply with the plan modification process.

Please let my staff know if you have any additional questions or need further clarification.

Sincerely,



Lisa Piercay, MD, MBA, FAAP
Commissioner

Cc:

The Honorable Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH
Acting State Health Commissioner
Virginia Department of Health

Tim Belisle, General Counsel
Ballad Health

Marvin Eichorn, EVP, Chief Administrative Officer
Ballad Health

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