



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

LISA PIERCEY, MD, MBA, FAAP
COMMISSIONER

March 22, 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 funding of the Gatton College of Pharmacy Center for Pharmacy Education, Advocacy and Outreach

Dear Mr. Levine,

This letter is in response to your request to the Tennessee Department of Health ("TDH") under Section 3.03(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 add funding for the Gatton College of Pharmacy Center for Pharmacy Education, Advocacy and Outreach (the "Center") at East Tennessee State University ("ETSU"). The Center will develop and employ new educational offering in the areas of simulation, inpatient and outpatient pharmacy, and development of research and outreach in the region to elevate the level of care provided in community and hospital-based pharmacies.

The plan modification proposes a total expenditure of \$3,500,000 over five (5) fiscal years (the "Funding"). The Funding will be used by the Center to develop educational offerings to expand the roles of pharmacists in the areas of addiction and mental health and training for the next generation of pharmacists to take a more dynamic role in the care of patients across the spectrum of medical conditions.

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 the Center and ETSU, should be required to account for spending of any COPA funds they receive. TDH accepts the milestones and metrics 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 needs of patients for trained pharmacists, who are in accessible positions to interact with and assist in caring for those with mental health issues and able to extend the provision of care to the local communities to have an impact on readmissions and overall outcomes for patients.

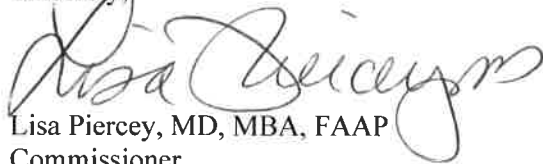
The COPA Monitor has reviewed your proposal and certain additional information provided in response to his request, and I concur with his recommendation that the proposed modification be approved.

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 of the Center. In order for expenditures after the current HR/GME Plan to be credited towards Ballad's monetary obligations, however, Ballad must include the Center 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 Piercey, 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

Karen Guske, COPA Compliance Officer
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