

May 16, 2012

Thomas Suehs, Executive Commissioner  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
Brown-Heatly Building  
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78751-2316

Re: Designation of Regional Healthcare Partnership, Region 18 Anchor Facility

Dear Mr. Suehs:

Thank you for the Health and Human Service Commission's (HHSC) vote of confidence in the preliminary naming of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (UNTHSC) as the Region 18 Anchor Facility; however, the UNTHSC must respectfully decline this appointment.

The application expressing the UNTHSC's possible interest in serving as the Region 18 Anchor Facility was made prior to the UNTHSC management team's becoming actively involved and based solely on discussions between one of our faculty members, Dr. Crusier, and leaders from Collin County and a few other community stakeholders. The UNTHSC does not currently have significant relationships, presence, or clinical practice in the counties represented within Region 18. Thus, after extensive exploration and discussions by the UNTHSC management team and other key stakeholders, we have determined that it is not in our best interest to serve as the Region 18 Anchor Facility.

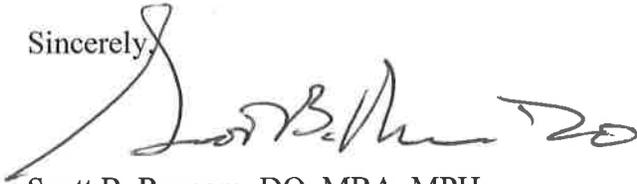
We understand and anticipate that academic medical centers, including the UNTHSC, will have the opportunity to participate in more than one region. However, without final regulations regarding the 1115 Waiver, it is not clear what limitations there may be on an RHP Anchor's expenditure of intergovernmental transfer funds (IGTs) and participation in DSRIP projects in regions outside the one being served as anchor. The UNTHSC has a significant presence and an important role in Region 10. While it is our desire to participate in and collaborate with several regions including Region 18, the UNTHSC cannot commit to a course of action that potentially limits its ability to serve in Region 10.

Once again, we thank you for your confidence in the UNTHSC's ability and expertise; however, the UNTHSC must decline this appointment and withdraw the application form submitted by Dr. Crusier to serve as the Region 18 anchor.

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We appreciate and do not take lightly the work that HHSC has put into this 1115 Demonstration Waiver project and in putting together the Regional Healthcare Partnerships. We look forward to working with HHSC as we move forward with this transformation process. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott B. Ransom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a stylized "R".

Scott B. Ransom, DO, MBA, MPH  
President