

From: Greg Hudson
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 10:18 AM
To: Bill Bilyeu
Subject: RE: A&M Health Science Center 1115 Waiver Partnership

Yes I do. I briefed another client yesterday on the same thing. My initial feeling is that Parkland (Dallas County Hospital District) will seek to be the “anchor” local government for the RHP that includes Collin County. (Collin County can always seek to be its own anchor, and create its own region, but I question whether it wants to step out and do so given the limited amount expended on indigent care). I met with the Gjerset attorneys last Wednesday to discuss this very thing for the indigent care programs in Montgomery County and Collin County.

I have had two other clients receive the Texas A&M letter. Both are following up with Texas A&M to hear their pitch on what they are proposing. I suggest you do the same. I am particularly interested in how they intend to get paid for the admin services – as they cannot receive any kickbacks from the amounts pulled down by the medical providers (former UPL hospitals). They may be looking for local governments to pay them for their role in administering the program as an “anchor”.

HHSC has not promulgated any rules governing RHP’s. It is my understanding that from a practical standpoint, the RHP “anchor” will for the near term act in an administrative capacity, collecting the county/hospital district’s “contributions” and the hospital claims data and submitting those to the State to pull down and disburse the Medicaid funds under the waiver. So the anchor will be nothing more than an aggregator, at least at the start. Over time though, the anchor will be in a position to approve programs for the DSRIP (health care incentive program) fund pool. That will give it more than an administrative role at that time.

I would be happy to discuss with the Commissioners next week. Let’s talk first, though.

Greg

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From: Keith Self Judge
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 9:23 AM
To: Bill Bilyeu
Subject: FW: A&M Health Science Center 1115 Waiver Partnership
Importance: High

Have you seen this? Let's chat.

Keith Self
County Judge
Collin County

From: Dickey, Nancy W. [<mailto:Dickey@tamhsc.edu>]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:53 AM
To: Anderson County; Andrews County; Angelina County; Aransas County; Archer County; Armstrong County; Atascosa County; Austin County; Bailey County; Bandera County; Bastrop County; Baylor County; Bee County; Bell County; Bexar County; Blanco County; Borden County; Bosque County; Bowie County; Brazoria County; Brazos County; Brewster County; Briscoe County; Brooks County; Brown County; Burlison County; Burnet County; Caldwell County; Calhoun County; Callahan County; Cameron County; Camp County; Carson County; Cass County; Castro County; Chambers County; Cherokee County; Childress County; Clay County; Cochran County; Coke County; Coleman County; Keith Self Judge; Collingsworth County; Colorado County; Comal County; Comanche County; Concho County; Cooke County; Cooke County; Coryell County; Crane County; Crockett County; Crosby County; Culberson County; Dallam County; Dallas County; Dawson County; Deaf Smith County; Delta County; Denton County; Denton County; Dewitt County; Dickens County; Dimmit County; Donley County; Duval County; Duval County; Eastland County; Ector County; Edwards County; El Paso County; Ellis County; Erath County; Falls County; Fannin County; Fayette County; Fisher County; Floyd County; Foard County; Fort Bend County; Franklin County; Freestone County; Frio County; Gaines County; Galveston County; Garza County; Gillespie County; Glasscock County; Goliad County; Gonzales County; Gray County; Grayson County; Gregg County; Grimes County; Guadalupe County; Hale County; Hall County; Hamilton County; Hansford County; Hardeman County; Hardin County; Harris County; Harrison County; Hartley County; Haskell County; Hays County; Hemphill County; Henderson County; Hidalgo County; Hill County; Hockley County; Hood County; Hopkins County; Houston County; Howard County; Hudspeth County; Hutchinson County; Irion County; Jack County; Jackson County; Jasper County; Jefferson County; Jim Hogg County; Jim Wells County; Johnson County; Jones County; Karnes County; Kaufman County; Kendall County; Kenedy County; Kent County; Kerr County; Kimble County; King County; Kinney County; Kleberg County; Knox County; La Salle County; Lamar County; Lamb County; Lampasas County; Lavaca County; Lee County; Leon County; Liberty County; Limestone County; Lipscomb County; Llano County; Loving County; Lubbock County; Lynn County; Madison County; Marion County; Mason County; Matagorda County; Maverick County; McCulloch County; McLennan County; McMullen County; Medina County; Menard County; Midland County; Milam County; Mills County; Mitchell County; Montague County; Montgomery County; Moore County; Morris County; Motley County; Nacogdoches County; Navarro County; Newton County; Nolan County; Nueces County; Ochiltree County; Oldham County; Orange County; Palo Pinto County; Panola County; Parker County; Parmer County; Pecos County; Polk County; Presidio County; Rains County; Randall County; Reagan County; Real County; Red River County; Reeves County; Refugio County; Roberts County; Robertson County; Rockwall County; Runnels County; Rusk County; Sabine County; San Augustine County; San Jacinto County; San Patricio County; San Saba County; Schleicher County; Scurry County; Shackelford County; Shelby County; Sherman County; Smith

County; Somervell County; Starr County; Stephens County; Sterling County; Stonewall County; Sutton County; Swisher County; Tarrant County; Taylor County; Terrell County; Terry County; Throckmorton County; Titus County; Tom Green County; Travis County; Trinity County; Tyler County; Upshur County; Upton County; Uvalde County; Val Verde County; Van Zandt County; Victoria County; Walker County; Waller County; Ward County; Washington County; Webb County; Wharton County; Wheeler County; Wichita County; Wilbarger County; Willacy County; Williamson County; Wilson County; Winkler County; Wise County; Wood County; Yoakum County; Young County; Zapata County; Zavala County

Cc: Ray, Lee Ann

Subject: A&M Health Science Center 1115 Waiver Partnership

Importance: High

February 2, 2012

Dear County Judge,

As you well know, the State of Texas has embarked upon a new venture called the Texas Transformation and Quality Improvement, better known as the 1115 Waiver (Waiver). This is a new mechanism for funding Medicaid and uncompensated health care in the state. The Waiver was granted retrospectively effective October 1, 2011. The Waiver is a relatively complex mechanism but it offers opportunity for collaboration, innovation, and increased funding streams.

One of the hallmarks of the Waiver is the creation of Regional Health Partnerships (RHPs) which will bring geographic areas of the state together to “pull down” uncompensated care dollars and to initiate system reform innovations that reduce cost, increase access and improve quality and which will also “pull down” a federal match. Having just been to a full day meeting with the HHSC Commissioner, we have begun to develop an understanding of the expectations of the state. Our hope is that we can partner with your hospital/council of government/county to implement the Waiver.

The Texas A&M Health Science Center’s (TAMHSC) vision for RHPs is one where TAMHSC and other partners like TORCH, multiple rural hospitals, county governments, and others would participate as **equal partners** in an effort to create an effective Regional Health Plan. The RHP would collect all necessary data for reporting purposes and organize all the necessary documentation required under the Waiver.

We believe that participation in an RHP must be voluntary, respectful and transparent. Given TAMHSC’S academic, clinical, and rural health policy expertise, we also believe that TAMHSC can be an appropriate, respectful, and effective partner for rural hospitals, their county governments, and their COGs. The TAMHSC would be willing to shoulder many of the administrative and planning burdens, is able to make intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) as required by the Waiver, has the capacity to do the mandatory community health assessment, etc. We are willing to be the anchor, a co-anchor or simply a consultant depending upon the desires of the RHP.

Over the next 30-60 days the boundaries of the RHPs need to be defined by the HHSC. While the commissioner has indicated a willingness to evaluate proposals made by groups of counties, if a geographic area or a county does not select an RHP or participate in creating an RHP, the HHSC will assign it to an RHP. While TAMHSC does not intend to submit any proposals to the HHSC without the participation and approval of the communities involved, we do want to assist particularly the rural areas to identify the RHP most likely to meet a particular county’s needs.

Please let us know as soon as possible but in any event no later than Friday, February 10, 2012, if you have an interest in attending a meeting (live or by teleconference) with like-minded entities. Depending upon interest level we may have multiple meetings. You may contact Dr. Lee Ann Ray at ray@tamhsc.edu to express your level of interest.

Sincerely,

Nancy W. Dickey, M.D.
President, Texas A&M Health Science Center
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, A&M System

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