



October 5, 2023

Sarah Bartelmann
Program Manager
Health Care Merger Oversight Program
Oregon Health Authority
500 Summer Street, NE, E-20
Salem, OR 97301-1097

Dear Ms. Bartelmann:

I am writing on behalf of Central City Concern to communicate my strong support for CareOregon and SCAN Group's proposal to form HealthRight Group. This initiative reflects the urgency to establish a locally controlled, community-based, non-profit payer model that can not only survive but thrive in today's increasingly consolidated and for-profit healthcare landscape. Both organizations share a deep dedication to providing quality care for individuals often marginalized by our healthcare system, and are well-positioned to pool their expertise, best practices, and financial resources to expand services to members and providers, potentially achieving significant scale.

Central City Concern, founded in 1979, is committed to providing individuals pathways towards self-sufficiency by actively intervening in poverty and homelessness. Our range of services provides a continuum of care, including healthcare, substance abuse disorder treatment, mental health services, case management, specialized housing for those with unique needs, as well as support for very low-income individuals, workforce development, and employment services. Each year, we assist over 13,000 individuals in making meaningful, long-term changes through affordable and supportive housing, person-centered healthcare, addiction recovery, and employment assistance. For decades, CareOregon has been a steadfast partner in our mission.

CareOregon has a history of actively listening to clinical providers and community partners to better understand the strengths and limitations of our healthcare system. Providers within my organization feel valued by and rely on CareOregon as a thoughtful and innovative partner to bridge gaps in the safety net. CareOregon has been a true safety net for the most vulnerable. They have consistently invested in their provider networks, directly supporting our efforts at Central City Concern, including expanding our Recuperative Care Program (RCP), providing outreach and engagement services for individuals with substance use disorder needs (Contingency Management), and establishing the dedicated Regional Care Team (Burnside Team).

In addition to these investments in Central City Concern's resilience and success, CareOregon is an integral part of our local communities. In the Portland Metro area, they have generously contributed to strengthening Language Access and Navigation services. This support has empowered Central City Concern to access certified interpreters, aiding our providers in delivering care to non-English speakers. CareOregon has also made a lasting investment in East Portland, an area that has been chronically underserved. Here, they have identified significant opportunities to enhance capacity for youth services and culturally specific care delivery services for Latino families.

I am confident that as part of HealthRight, CareOregon will continue to honor its ongoing commitment to Oregon and to the broader mission of building healthier communities for all individuals. I am pleased to support the establishment of HealthRight and eagerly anticipate our continued partnership with CareOregon.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andrew Mendenhall
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