



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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March 11, 2020

Hugh Straley, MD
Chair
Robert Bree Collaborative
c/o Foundation for Health Care Quality
705 Second Avenue, Suite 410
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Dr. Straley:

SUBJECT: Palliative Care

We have reviewed and accept the Palliative Care report and recommendations.

Palliative care is both an important and complicated health care issue and we appreciate the Collaborative's work in this area. This is a very useful and timely report. The practical approach taken to provide definitions, tools for identifying those who may meet criteria for palliative care, and the legislative effort conducted by another state is particularly helpful for the Washington State Health Care Authority's policy research. Our plan is to leverage this work to identify and implement necessary changes to pay for palliative care and implement a clear policy and payment methodology for Medicaid, employee and retiree programs.

Thank you and the Collaborative for continuing your outstanding efforts to improve the safe and effective purchasing and improvement of health care and overall health in Washington. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Josh Morse by phone at 360-725-0839 or via email at Josh.Morse@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sue Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Director

By email

cc: Ginny Wier, Director, The Bree Collaborative
Peter Dunbar, CEO, Foundation for Health Care Quality
Cheryl Strange, Secretary, DSHS
John Wiesman, Secretary, DOH
Louis McDermott, Deputy Director, HCA
MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director, HCA
Leah Hole-Marchall, Counsel and Chief Strategist, HBE
Judy Zerzan, Chief Medical Officer, CQCT, HCA
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