



PBGH

Pacific Business
Group on Health

221 Main Street
Suite 1500

San Francisco
CA 94105

www.pbgh.org

www.healthscope.org

Tel: 415.281.8660

Fax: 415.281.0960

February 22, 2007

Carolyn M. Clancy, MD
Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
John M. Eisenberg Building
540 Gaither Road, Suite 3000
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Recommendation of QASC Expansion Workgroup
Value Exchange Chartering Terms and Application Process

Dear Carolyn,

On behalf of the Quality Alliance Steering Committee (QASC) Expansion Workgroup, I am formally presenting our *Recommended Value Exchange Chartering Terms* to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) so it can serve as guidance for the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will ultimately delineate the expectations and conditions for designation for being a Value Exchange. Through Nancy Wilson's participation on the Workgroup, AHRQ has served as an important contributor in this process.

As you are aware, the QASC Expansion Workgroup has been working on developing "Chartering Terms" for Value Exchanges. These Chartering Terms cover the expectations and conditions of designation for being a Value Exchange in eight core functional areas. In addition to presenting initial recommendations to the QASC, we also reached out to a larger community for comments and feedback. People who expressed an interest in participating in the workgroup, provider members of the AQA and HQA communities, and representatives of consumers and purchasers actively participated in two webcasts and/or provided written feedback. The attached document represents the culmination of this work.

In addition to relaying the attached, the Expansion Workgroup wanted to convey the following observations and recommendations with regard to the process of selection on which AHRQ is about to embark:

- AHRQ should seek an expedited 30-day review from the Office of Management and Budget and for its listing with the Federal Register – the elements that are being considered have been subject to extensive comment and discussion by a wide range of stakeholders;
- Once released by AHRQ, applicants should have from 45 to 60 days to respond;
- To the extent possible, AHRQ should design an application that would enable applicants to reuse materials that have been prepared for comparable efforts (e.g., applications for the Robert Wood Johnson Aligning Forces program; initial applications to the AQA to serve as data pilots);

- The application review process should occur within 45 days (on-site visits are not being recommended) and should be done by a group of stakeholders similar in make-up to the Expansion Workgroup; and
- AHRQ should charter as many communities that can be effectively supported by the learning network.

The Workgroup is very excited about getting the first Value Exchanges “inaugurated” and looks forward to working with AHRQ in making this happen. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter V. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being the most prominent.

Peter V. Lee
CEO, Pacific Business Group on Health
On Behalf of the QASC Expansion Workgroup

Enclosure

cc: QASC Steering Committee
QASC Expansion Workgroup
QASC Infrastructure Workgroup
AQA Steering Committee
HQA Steering Committee