



CHRONIC CARE COLLABORATIVE

Advocating for the one in four chronically ill Coloradans

Alzheimer's Association, Colorado Chapter

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Liver Foundation, Rocky Mountain Division

American Lung Association of Colorado

Arthritis Foundation Rocky Mountain Chapter

Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado

Can Do Multiple Sclerosis

Colorado AIDS Project

Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved

Colorado Gerontological Society

Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Easter Seals Colorado

Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado

Hep C Connection

Huntington's Disease Society of America, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Komen Colorado

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Lupus Foundation of Colorado

March of Dimes, Colorado Chapter

Mental Health America of Colorado

Muscular Dystrophy Association

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Colorado

National Hemophilia Foundation, Colorado Chapter

National Kidney Foundation of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming

National MS Society, Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

National Stroke Association

Parkinson Association of the Rockies

Rocky Mountain MS Center

Rocky Mountain Stroke Center

Scleroderma Foundation, Rocky Mountain Chapter

THRIVE: The Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Initiative of Colorado

Cynthia Coffman, Esq.
Attorney General of the State of Colorado
Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203

January 7, 2016

Re: Master Plan of Conversion, Total Community Options, Inc. d/b/a InnovAge

Dear Attorney General Coffman:

The Chronic Care Collaborative (CCC) is pleased to offer these comments on the Plan of Conversion filed November 7, 2015 by Total Community Options, Inc. d/b/a InnovAge (InnovAge).

The CCC members are 34 voluntary health organizations that advocate for the 1 in 4 Coloradans living with a chronic disease. We are guided by five priorities, the first being: advocating for long term care upon a foundation of integrated home and community based services, we want nursing homes to be not the only option for Coloradans who need such care. InnovAge represents a substantial resource to Colorado for independent living.

The CCC is concerned by InnovAge's statements that a post conversion Foundation would grant money anywhere in the United States. Even though InnovAge was founded as a Colorado non-profit with years of funding from Coloradans and a majority of their service area has been Colorado.

We are supportive of the InnovAge conversion to for profit status, however; we do have concerns regarding the conversion of a service provider for the Program for the All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). PACE is funded with public money from Medicare and Medicaid and it is imperative that the conversion process is open and transparent.

PACE clients are usually dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, these individuals are generally elderly, but also younger and disabled, and low-income. Due to the vulnerability of these individuals, the Attorney General should exercise extreme care in evaluating the proposed conversion. To qualify for PACE a person must be 55 or older, meet nursing facility level of care, live in a service area of PACE, and for a person to be able to live in a community without risking their health or safety. The post-conversion foundation should be held to the same standards when making grants in Colorado and not exclude any grants for persons or groups who would qualify for PACE, especially the disabled.

As InnovAge converts we are concerned that the information provided in the Master Plan of Conversion about the future conversion foundation is not a sufficient guide to ensure that the converted foundation will continue the charitable purpose of the former nonprofit. The Board of Directors of the converted Foundation should include voting members who come from and represent the Colorado communities served by the PACE program and not directly related to the current InnovAge. While the Plan calls for a community board, no specifics are provided on how that community board will be achieved. We respectfully request that the Attorney General require additional specifications and public comment on the appointment of a community board that includes details on a timeline and appointments.

We encourage the Attorney General to establish an Ombudsman for the for-profit InnovAge. An independent Ombudsman should be set up for the benefit of clients and their caretakers or advocates to address problems with delivery of services.

We also want to thank the Attorney General for providing the public comment hearing on December 17th.

On behalf of the Chronic Care Collaborative,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon O'Hara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon O'Hara
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