



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

Thu, Oct 10, 2013 at 12:11 PM

Reply-to: [REDACTED]
To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

First Name - Kevin

Last Name - Earl

Organization Name -

Comment -



MIRCLetter10OCT2013.pdf
42K

Kevin J. Earl, CPC

October 10, 2013

Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission
201 North 9th Street
General Assembly Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission:

Throughout my years working in service to patients and providers navigating the challenges and pitfalls of our healthcare system's financial experience I have developed a close perspective which I hope warrants your attention. I work as a director with one of the largest not-for-profit providers in the state, serving a large portion of western Virginia with our mission to improve the health of our communities. My current role, primarily working with our patient access team includes improving consistency and transparency of the billing process during the patient's pre-service experience when appropriate. By minimizing the anxiety of financial uncertainty we can impact a better healing environment.

Under the healthcare model we've endured prior to the Affordable Care Act, most of us with coverage have remained removed from the experience of our friends and neighbors who have not been able to afford similar coverage. And more astonishingly, ignorant or silent to the impact their lack of coverage holds over their personal health, our community health and everyone's financial health. The model has become exponentially unsustainable and it is too late to perpetuate our previous failures to act.

Working closely in this experience with a community-owned safety-net provider I see those individual uninsured lives daily face either the prospect of bankruptcy and tens of thousands of dollars in bad debt or qualification for our financial assistance program. Perhaps many wrongly believe that financial assistance designations bring adequate funding. But our lawmakers and our Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission must be aware this is not the case. I call on you to know that the funding to keep our doors open amid those financial shortfalls comes directly from our communities in the form of higher prices and higher insurance premiums...a blindly subsidized social model...the exponentially unsustainable path to which I referred.

As citizens we must demand greater transparency and efficiency from the system that oversees this path. I know others have already provided you with the statistics, demographics and volumes of patients set to remain uninsured if we do not expand our Medicaid program. While the Affordable Care Act is imperfect, it provides a basis to begin the long journey for establishing necessary transparency. We cannot wait any longer. As a Commonwealth we must support the mechanisms that can be held accountable to appropriate and lower-cost preventive care that minimize the high overutilization of more expensive emergency care that we unwittingly subsidize today. To this end I call on you to urgently make the way for expansion of our Virginia Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Earl, CPC