



Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

New MIRC Comment

1 message

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

ue, Oct 15, 2013 at 12:30 AM

First Name - Virginia

Last Name - Frank

Organization Name - Wellmont Health System

Comment -

 **MIRC Wellmont Frank.pdf**
96K

October 13, 2013

Dear Chairman Hanger and Members of the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission:

As President of Holston Valley Medical Center, a member hospital of Wellmont Health System with facilities located in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Commission's decision to reform and expand Medicaid in Virginia.

When our uninsured patients of SWVA knock on our Emergency Room doors, they are ultimately seeking care in its most expensive form. They are drawn to this form of care as it is typically perceived as "free". Hospitals have been absorbing the costs associated with this approach for years, but with the severe cuts in reimbursements to hospitals, the costs once shifted to those who are privately insured are no longer an option. In addition, this approach to healthcare is the least desirable approach as these patients are most often not receiving the care in a coordinated manner that has been proven to be most effective for the desired outcomes.

Providing the coverage to the patients who qualify under the expansion guidelines will enable them to seek the care model that ensures the quality of care our providers demand while also maintaining cost controls that are necessary for our sustainability.

Thank you for your service to our Commonwealth.

Virginia Frank
President, Holston Valley Medical Center
Wellmont Health System