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May 19, 2014

Via Email and Hand-Delivery

Log # 13003

Ann M. Henry, Director
Department of Public Welfare
Office of Long-Term Living, Bureau of Finance
ATTN: Participation Review Unit
555 Walnut Street
Forum Place, 6th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1919

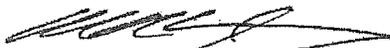
**RE: Response to the Public Comments of Guardian Elder Care and PACAH
Bed Exception Request for Bradford County
Possible Purchase of Ashton Healthcare by Kling Health, L.P.
Our Matter No. 689-13; DPW Log # 13003**

Dear Ms. Henry:

Kling Health is in receipt of two letters filed in response to the Department's request for public comments in relation to this Bed Exception Request. The first was filed by Guardian Elder Care. Kling Health notes that the facilities listed by Guardian Elder Care are all outside of Bradford County and the project's Primary Service Area. For this reason, Kling Health respectfully requests that the Department decline to entertain those comments. With regard to the public comments from PACAH, Kling Health respectfully disagrees with their position. As outlined in Kling Health's initial Bed Exception Request, there is a great need for additional Medicaid certified beds in the County. This is especially the case now that the County has lost Ashton's 121 Medicaid certified beds.

In addition, Kling Health has recently received the attached letter from the B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging which serves Bradford County. The letter indicates that the local Area Agency on Aging is having difficulty placing Medicaid recipients in appropriate long term care facilities due to the recent closure of Ashton Healthcare. Kling Health would respectfully request that the Department consider it in rendering its decision relative to the instant Bed Exception Request.

Respectfully,



Donald R. Reavey, Esquire

Attachments

cc: Dave Klingerman, Jr.