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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:41 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: Bigag19@aol.com
Subject: Response to Comment from Richard Swartz
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee: I am attaching a response from UPE to the comment received by the Insurance Department from Richard Swartz, Executive Director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and a member of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Community Partnership. I am also copying Mr. Swartz with the response by email at the email address in the email transmitting his comment letter to the Insurance Department.

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**BEFORE THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Statement Regarding the Acquisition of Control of or Merger with
Domestic Insurers:

Highmark Inc.; First Priority Life Insurance Company, Inc.;
Gateway Health Plan, Inc.; Highmark Casualty Insurance Company;
Highmark Senior Resources Inc.; HM Casualty Insurance Company;
HM Health Insurance Company, d/b/a Highmark Health Insurance Company;
HM Life Insurance Company; HMO of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., d/b/a First Priority
Health; Inter-County Health Plan, Inc.;
Inter-County Hospitalization Plan, Inc.; Keystone Health Plan West, Inc.;
United Concordia Companies, Inc.; United Concordia Dental Plans of Pennsylvania, Inc.;
United Concordia Life and Health Insurance Company

By UPE, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation

Response of UPE to
Comment of Richard Swartz Dated March 2, 2012

UPE is responding to the comment from Richard Swartz received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department March 2, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0191 on the Highmark/ West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Mr. Swartz of Bloomfield –Garfield Corporation and member of the Western Pennsylvania Community Partnership has stated his support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark Inc. (“Highmark”) and West Penn Allegheny Health System (“WPAHS”). Mr. Swartz and his organization work to ensure that citizens of his community have access to high-quality health services. He believes that the proposed affiliation will strengthen and revitalize WPAHS and restore the confidence of community members that health care will be provided by caring physicians, nurses and staff in a state-of-the-art facility when they need it.

UPE is in agreement with the comments of Mr. Swartz and believes the proposed affiliation is essential to helping the region maintain provider choice and competition. UPE also understands the importance of preserving these valuable community resources for the people of Western Pennsylvania.

UPE would like to thank Mr. Swartz for his comments and support.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: March 12, 2012

cc: Richard Swartz