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Bybee, Cressinda

From: Chronister, Ronald [ronald.chronister@bipc.com]
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 10:39 AM
To: Bybee, Cressinda
Cc: sandy.bradyrn@yahoo.com
Subject: Response to public comment from Sandy Brady
Attachments: ScannedFile.pdf

Ms. Bybee,

Attached is a response to the public comment received by the Insurance Department from Sandy Brady. I am providing Ms. Brady with a copy of the response with this email.

Ron Chronister

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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; Intercounty Health Plan, Inc.;
Intercounty 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 Sandy Brady Dated August 30, 2012**

UPE is responding to the comment from Sandy Brady received by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department August 31, 2012. The comment is numbered as Document 0877 on the Highmark/West Penn Cumulative Log page of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department website.

Ms. Brady has expressed her support for the continued viability of the West Penn Allegheny Health System ("WPAHS") and understands that the proposed affiliation with Highmark Inc. ("Highmark") plays a crucial role in achieving that objective. Ms. Brady also expresses concerns about the current management environment at WPAHS and the potential impact on patient care and medical outcomes of having a single dominant integrated delivery system in Western Pennsylvania.

UPE finds the proposed affiliation necessary to sustain WPAHS as a valuable community asset, and to preserve choice in the provision and insurance of healthcare services for the people of Western Pennsylvania. UPE also believes that this affiliation would facilitate the promotion of best practices in information management and administration throughout the system that would result both in better patient outcomes and improved quality of care.

UPE would like to thank the Ms. Brady for her comments.

UPE
120 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DATE: September 10, 2012

cc: Sandy Brady

