



Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 12/16/04

To: Hearing Examiner / Attn Steven J. Junior

Organization: OCI

Fax Number:

Total Pages Including Cover:

From: Dr Susan Turney

Message:

Please deliver to Mr. Junior

ASAP!!



Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

December 16, 2004

Attn: Hearing Examiner
c/o Mr. Steven J. Junior
Senior Insurance Examiner
Bureau of Financial Analysis and Examinations
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
125 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707-7873

RE: Unity Health Plans Case #04-C29300

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Wisconsin was acquired by Wellpoint Health Networks. Prior to this merger UW Health and Unity participated in a joint venture relationship with BCBS.

It is our understanding that the foundation of the joint venture relationship was to allow either party at 5-year intervals to end this joint venture. As such, UW Health, under contractually agreed upon terms, could exercise its guaranteed right to buy back Unity from BCBS. UW Health is now in the process of attempting to buy back the company.

Although we are not in a position to comment on the contract terms, we are supportive of UW Health owning Unity.

During the time Unity was owned by BCBS of Wisconsin, UW Health has been intimately involved in health plan functions that affect Unity's coverage of health care services. These services include medical management, behavioral health management and pharmacy management.

One result of this relationship is locally developed case and disease management by physicians who understand local community needs and resources. Another result is the preservation of a community patient-base for the teaching programs of the University of Wisconsin Medical School and access for patients in rural communities to secondary and tertiary care which would be less likely without the partnership.

By returning Unity to UW Health, local control over the health plan functions could continue. Additionally, there would be preservation of the local health care environment to provide a high level of service and quality to its members.

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

-2-

December 16, 2004

During your deliberation, please consider the positive impact on high quality, accessible, affordable health care that the UW Health-Unity relationship provides and help prevent disruption to a well-developed health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Turney".

Susan L. Turney, MD, MS, FACP, CMPE
Executive Vice President