



July 24, 2015

Something special is happening in Wisconsin healthcare! As you may know, our state received a \$2.49 million Model Design award as part of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center’s (CMMI) State Innovation Models (SIM) initiative. The award, which began in February 2015, requires us to engage a diverse group of community and industry leaders—providers, payers, purchasers, consumers—to develop and submit a State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP) by February 2016.

You’ve played a unique role in Wisconsin’s healthcare innovation in the past through your service, representation and engagement of the consumers in Wisconsin.

Through the development of the SHIP, our goal is to outline innovative payment and service delivery models with a broad mission to improve health, improve the quality of care, and realize smarter spending for all Wisconsin’s healthcare stakeholders.

And we know that our plan will be incomplete without the direct input of the consumers we all serve.

To this end **we are requesting your assistance** in refining and executing the consumer engagement strategies that will be the most effective in obtaining the critical feedback for incorporation into the SHIP.

We are planning to convene a group of consumer-oriented stakeholders in August. During this session we will provide background and an update on the development of the SHIP, and then turn to you for input on how to meaningfully engage consumers on the shared goals and innovative changes for improving health and the quality of care in Wisconsin. We would also welcome any suggestions that you may have for additional consumer related organizations that should be included in this effort.

We invite you to respond to Julie Bartels with your confirmation to participate. Julie is leading the plan team under the co-oversight of the Department of Health Services and the Statewide Value Committee. She can be reached at jbartels@createvalue.org.

Sincerely,

Kitty Rhoades
Secretary
Department of Health Services

John Toussaint, MD
President and Founder
ThedaCare Center for Healthcare Value
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