

June 12, 2020

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

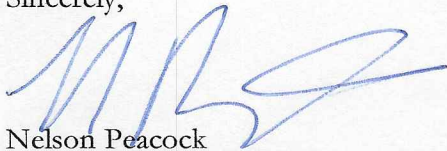
Enclosed is a proposal respectfully submitted to the Arkansas CARES Act Steering Committee regarding CARES Act funding for COVID related testing and contract tracing needs in Northwest Arkansas. This proposal is made on behalf of the Northwest Arkansas Council's Health Transformation Division, which is comprised of every major health care provider in Northwest Arkansas. Since the outbreak of COVID -19, the division has been utilized as a coordinating body to establish a collective, regionwide response.

The Northwest Arkansas COVID-19 Comprehensive Response Plan for Special Populations, as set forth in the attached proposal will place the Community Clinic and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Northwest as the lead institutions to implement a comprehensive contact tracing program for vulnerable populations in Northwest Arkansas. These institutions have existing expertise and strong relationships with the Marshallese and Spanish speaking populations in Northwest Arkansas which will help ensure success in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

This approach will be fully coordinated with the existing testing and referral patterns of local health care providers and is consistent and supportive of the higher education plan for testing and tracing. Finally, it will support the Arkansas Department of Health's public health focus in Northwest Arkansas.

Thank you for your leadership and that of the public health team. We are all incredibly proud of the response from our state leaders and health care providers. We stand ready to do our part to ensure the health of our patients and the general public in Northwest Arkansas.

Sincerely,



Nelson Peacock
President and CEO
Northwest Arkansas Council

CC: **Members of the Northwest Arkansas Health Care Transformation Division:**
Susan Barrett, Chair, Health Care Transformation Division, Northwest Arkansas Council
Larry Shackelford, President and CEO, Washington Regional Medical System

Eric Pianalto, President, Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas
Denten Park, Northwest Health System

Trisha Montague, Arkansas Children's Northwest

Kelvin Parks, Chief Executive Officer, Veteran's Health Care System of the Ozarks

Pearl McElfish, Vice Chancellor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences - Northwest

Judd Semingson, Chief Executive Officer, Community Clinics Northwest Arkansas

Tracy Gaudet, Chief Executive Officer, Whole Health Institute