

**From:** Sally Snyder  
**Sent:** Monday, June 08, 2015 10:19 PM  
**To:** KEELING Ryan W \* DCBS  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of Trillium to Centene

Dear Mr. Keeling:

Thank you for being available to accept public comment on the proposed sale of Trillium Health Plan to Centene Corporation. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns, and hope that my voice, along with those of others impacted by this sale, will have an impact on the how this process plays out.

I have been a clinical supervisor and mental health therapist in an outpatient mental health clinic in Eugene for over ten years, as well as serving a handful of clients through a small private practice. I have seen first hand the impact on agencies, providers and clients of shift from contracting with a not-for-profit, quasi-governmental organization (LaneCare) to a for-profit organization (Trillium) to provide mental health services to clients covered under the Oregon Health Plan. While many of the changes can be attributed to the huge influx of new OHP-covered clients, many are, in my opinion, directly related to the shift in organizational priorities. The highest priority of a for-profit corporation is to increase net income. The quality of services provided, especially when they are provided to consumers who have nowhere else to go, is secondary.

Some of the impacts I have seen since Trillium became responsible for managing the health care of 100,000 OHP clients include:

- Increased demands on providers to carry larger caseloads and provide shorter-term therapies, resulting in the exodus of many experienced and skilled mental health therapists who chose to move into private practice or other types of social work rather than compromise the quality of their work with clients;
- Less training opportunities for therapists and pilot project funding for agencies, funded by the management organization, aimed at increasing agencies' capacities to provide evidence-based and promising practices to clients;
- Fewer opportunities for consumers/clients to have a voice in what services are provided and how they are provided.

I am very concerned that the sale of Trillium to Centene will only increase the pressures on therapists to do more for less, resulting in poorer outcomes for clients. I am also concerned that this sale will give consumers/clients an even smaller to non-existent voice in how their mental health needs are met.

In short, I am strongly opposed to the sale of Trillium to Centene. The shift in priorities from client care and support of the therapists and agencies who provide this care, to profits is bad enough. The shift from a local organization that must respond, at least to some degree, to the needs and conditions of the communities and residents they serve, to a large out-of-state company that has no investment in these needs and conditions is even worse. The consumers

served by the Oregon Health Plan are the most vulnerable and least resourced among us. They deserve better than this.

I urge the OID and the State to do whatever is possible to stop this sale. At the very, very least, I urge the State to support any and all efforts, locally and nationally, to institute a cap on how much profit a corporation can make managing our public dollars, earmarked to provide for the health care needs of our most vulnerable community members.

Yours truly,  
Sally Snyder

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***Sally Snyder, L.C.S.W.***  
***Child and Family Therapist***