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**From:** Bob Kitzberger  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 12:53 PM  
**To:** KEELING Ryan W \* DCBS  
**Subject:** Centene and Agate Resources

To the Oregon Insurance Division,  
I hope the Insurance Division will support the proposed transaction between Agate Resources and Centene. Centene appears to have strengths that Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations could use.

As a large national company, Centene brings financial strength to Trillium that should enable it to weather any future funding changes and give a stable provider to its Oregon Health Plan members. Also, Centene has clearly invested in the expertise that Oregon's CCO's can use - a review of their companies indicates that they have strength in home care, reducing pharmacy costs, telemedicine, health education, and behavioral health. If national solutions exist to these problems, I would want to bring them home to Oregon, where we certainly have not yet solved them.

The most important aspect of Centene that we should be assessing is how well they will perform for OHP members. In this regard, I think we should welcome the strength of national players and not fear them. Kaiser - Our other OHP provider that is based outside of Oregon - has some of the highest quality ratings in the state and does an excellent job of serving its members.

It is true that there are risks in partnering with new OHP providers, but I believe that the state of Oregon has already done good work to ensure that appropriate controls exist to ensure that Centene acts in the best interest of OHP members. Firstly, benefits given to members are mandated by relevant OAR's - regardless of its owner, Trillium can never decrease services to members below Oregon regulations. Secondly, all members have a robust appeal process in place (including appearing before an administrative law judge) should they disagree with a benefit determination. Lastly, like all CCO's, the Trillium structure - including its committees, governance and compliance are under the control of the legislature and not under the control of the plan.

For these reasons, I hope that the Insurance Division welcomes the transaction between Agate and Centene.

Sincerely,  
Bob Kitzberger  
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