



May 3, 2016

Attorney General George Jepson
Office of The Attorney General
55 Elm Street
Hartford 06106

Dear Attorney General,

I write as a healthcare leader in the Waterbury community for the past 25 years and also a lifelong resident of the city of Waterbury. I have seen innumerable changes in the health care system throughout my professional career, some of which have stemmed from state and federal policy changes, but many that have been unique and in response to local decisions. While I continue to have confidence in the capabilities of my colleagues, the changes have not been without consequences to our community and StayWell Health Center.

In 2013, six community partners, including both hospitals and StayWell, founded the Greater Waterbury Health Improvement Partnership. An extensive needs assessment was completed and was considered to be a guide for the community benefit planning for both hospital entities. As a community, we have come together and developed workgroups to address the priorities indicated in the assessment. With state budget challenges, increased operating costs, and changes in demographics, it is ever more difficult to deliver services.


StayWell itself has had to expand due to formal and informal changes in programming and staffing by both hospitals and other entities over the past twenty years. Our organization is currently providing 90,000 patient visits annually, across nine sites in Waterbury. Unfortunately, there has been nominal if any funding to support such absorption of services and patients. Most recently, StayWell has had to assume the lead role for Part A Ryan White Region 2. There is a significant clinical and administrative burden that comes with this role.

I would strongly urge the State of Connecticut to consider the long term needs of the Waterbury community and the best stewards for securing the commitment and resources to meet those needs. As you are aware, community health centers are charged by the federal government and designed to be responsive to community needs combined with the benefit of extensive federal standards and oversight. Another strong and reputable local partner who could serve as a good steward of available funds following the hospital transaction is the Connecticut Community Foundation.

As the CEO of StayWell, I ask that you strongly consider that Waterbury Hospital establish an endowment fund at the Connecticut Community Foundation for StayWell and an additional fund to generate ongoing resources for community health initiatives. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I would be willing to provide further details of the specific needs in our community and the ways in which these funds could have an impact if properly secured for our community.

Respectfully Submitted,


Donald J. Thompson, MPS
President / CEO


Mark Briggs
Chairman, Board of Directors

cc: Joan Hartley

Phone: 203.756.8021 Fax: 203.596.9038 www.staywellhealth.org

Our Centers	StayWell Health Center 80 Phoenix Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06702 StayWell South End Health Center I & II 1309 & 1302 South Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06706	Driggs School-Based Health Center 77 Woodlawn Terrace, Waterbury, CT 06710 Open Arms at St. Vincent DePaul Shelter 114 Benedict Street, Waterbury, CT 06706	Open Arms at Western CT Mental Health Network 95 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06702 Open Arms at Salvation Army Family Shelter 74 Central Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06702
-------------	---	--	---