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Community Memorial Hospital

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Written Testimony of Hamilton Bassett Crouse Network

**New York State Joint Legislative Public Hearing on
2015-16 Executive Health Budget
Monday, February 2nd, 2015
10:00 AM**

Chairs:

Senator Kemp Hannon
Assemblyman Richard Gottfried

Submitted by:

Sean Fadale, President

Hamilton Bassett Crouse Network (HBCN) was formed in 1996 to enhance the delivery of health care services in the area of southern and central Madison, northern Chenango and southern Oneida Counties. The initial members of the Hamilton Bassett Crouse Network are Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton, Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown and Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. The network also has representation from Crouse Community Center in Morrisville and Madison County Department of Health. The HBCN serves a population of over 73,000 people in 27 communities throughout Madison County and the eastern sections of Onondaga County as well as parts of Chenango and Oneida Counties. The goals of the network include: 1) improve the health of the communities and residents within the network service area, 2) plan for and implement strategies for making needed services and resources available and accessible; and 3) assure that services and resources are available in the most appropriate settings and in coordinated, high quality and cost effective manner.

There are a couple of items in the Governor's Executive Budget would have a tremendous adverse effect on the ability of our network to accomplish its goals. It appears that the budget proposal indicates that the Rural Health Network Development program and the Rural Health Care Access Development program have been bundled with seven unrelated health workforce development programs. Additionally these collective programs will be cut more than 15%. We are asking that the Rural Health Development Network programs be un-bundled and the funding be restored to \$6.4 million for Rural Health Network Development and \$9.8 million for Rural Access.

The Hamilton Bassett Crouse Network has four priority areas: 1) Primary Care Systems Enhancement; 2) Improving Chronic Disease Prevention and Management; 3) Promoting Mental Health Systems and Substance Abuse Services Integration; and 4) Enhancement of Information and Communications Systems to achieve interoperability. Activities related to these priority areas include recruitment of primary care

providers including a pediatrician; obtaining Patient Centered Medical Home in each of the Community Memorial Hospitals Family Health Centers; increasing mental health and substance abuse services in our service areas; improve interoperability through interfaces between organization, linkage with RHIO, and establishment of a patient portal; and enhancement of our technology. These focus areas and the actions related to them not only support the Prevention Agenda but also support the goals of DSRIP and SHIP.

Again we are asking your assistance in restoring the individual budget lines for the Rural Health Network Development and the Rural Health Care Access Development as well as they funding level.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (315) 824-6080 or sfadale@cmhhamilton.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SF' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sean Fadale,
President and CEO