



**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER, 5TH FLOOR  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

**LISA PIERCEY, MD, MBA, FAAP**  
COMMISSIONER

July 27, 2021

Mr. Alan Levine  
Executive Chairman, President, and CEO  
Ballad Health  
303 Med Tech Parkway, Suite 300  
Johnson City, TN 37604

Subject: Ballad's Request to Amend the Rural Health Plan (to include EMS Cardiac Monitors)

Dear Mr. Levine,

I have received and reviewed your proposal to modify the Ballad Health 2018 Rural Health Plan to include activities and spending related to the purchase of cardiac monitors for 23 local emergency medical services (EMS) providers. A total of 155 new cardiac monitors would be purchased for a total investment of \$3,514,000, with the expenditures occurring in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The proposal also included spending related to the reopening of Lee County Community Hospital. However, that portion of the proposal will be addressed in a separate response.

Due to the high rates of heart disease in the Ballad service area, replacing outdated EMS cardiac monitors with new monitors that are equipped with the latest technological advancements should have a positive impact on health outcomes in the region. This proposal appears consistent with the goals of the Rural Health Plan as articulated in the Terms of Certification. I therefore approve counting the \$3,415,000 spend for the cardiac monitors against the Rural Health Plan's \$28,000,000 commitment. This approval is subject to the following conditions:

- The expenditures are to occur during fiscal years 2021 and 2022;
- The funding must be included in the next version of the Rural Health Plan; and
- Ballad must provide the Department, as milestones and metrics, updates on the purchase and implementation of the new cardiac monitors on the same timeline as all other Rural Health Plan updates are provided to the Department.

Thank you for seeking formal approval of this plan amendment. I commend Ballad for this meaningful investment. Please let me know if you have questions or need clarification regarding any of the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lisa M. Piercey".

Lisa M. Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP  
Commissioner

Cc: The Honorable Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Health

Tim Belisle, General Counsel  
Ballad Health

Claire C. Haltom, Shareholder  
Baker Donelson PC

Larry Fitzgerald  
COPA Monitor

Janet M. Kleinfelter, Deputy Attorney General  
State of Tennessee

Judi Knecht, Interim COPA Director  
Tennessee Department of Health

Jeff Ockerman  
Tennessee Department of Health

Erik Bodin, Office of Licensure and Certification  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Karen Guske, SVP Ballad Health  
COPA Compliance Officer