



February 10, 2020

Dear Legislators,

The Utah Falls Prevention Alliance strongly endorses S.J.R. 1, which supports the development and implementation of technology to streamline communication between a primary care provider and a home health care provider, and improve the coordination of care for older adults. Timeliness in initiating home health care greatly reduces rehospitalization risk and downstream medical costs. This is especially important for preventing complications in medically frail older adults.

The Utah Falls Prevention Alliance represents 36 agencies and organizations, working to increase public awareness of older adults falls and fall prevention and to improve coordination of care for older Utahns. The Commission on Aging hosts the [Falls Prevention website](#) which contains information and helpful tips for seniors and caregivers to prevent falls. The Falls Prevention Alliance has partnered with the Utah Department of Health to educate seniors about fall prevention and offer 8-week evidence-based fall prevention classes throughout Utah. To date, 2,400 seniors have attended a class.

The Alliance has demonstrated their ability to work with stakeholders to improve coordination of care. Through a prior Health Information Technology grant, the Utah Health Information Network is building infrastructure within the Clinical Health Information Exchange to notify Primary Care Providers of a fall occurrence for their patient. As a current University of Utah grant recipient, the Alliance is partnering with Salt Lake City EMS, Gold Cross Ambulance, and other important stakeholders to develop solutions to reduce repeat fall calls and assist seniors in remaining as independent as possible.

As Utahns age, falls will increase and place a strain on our healthcare, EMS and social support agencies. One important way we can address the upcoming need is to build infrastructure that enhances communication between service providers, reduces fragmentation, and thereby improves patient care. The Utah Falls Prevention Alliance is responsible, innovative, and proactive in its approach to caring for older adults. Please consider our request for funding to support this grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.



FALLS PREVENTION ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Sally Aerts Co-chair	Andy Curry	Joan Gallegos	Maryann Martindale	Andy Riggle
Sen. Iwamoto Co-chair	Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost	Dave Gessel	Michelle McOmber	Krista Schonrock, M.D.
Tracy Altman	Guy Dansie	Danny J Harris	Jack Meersman	Sara Struhs
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Marianne Christensen	Rob Ence	Kathleen Kaufman	Alan Ormsby	Sheila Walsh-Mcdonald
Jerry Costley	Kris Fawson	Joyce Kim	Deborah Parker	Clay Watson
Kristy Cottrell	Anna Fondario	Lisa Kissell	Curtis Payne	Chad Westover
Randall Crocker	Diane Forster-Burke	Shelly Martin	Deepthi Rajeev	Matthew Wilson



Homecare & Hospice
Association of Utah

February 7, 2020

Dear Legislators:

The Homecare and Hospice Association of Utah represents more than 100 home health, hospice and personal care agencies in Utah. These agencies create 13,000 jobs, add \$640 million to the state's economy and care for approximately 25,000 patients in their home each year.

The current scenario for obtaining signed orders from physicians is time-consuming; often requiring repeat phone calls and faxes to medical clinics, and delays to the start of home health and other services. Under current circumstances, it is not unusual for a patient to wait several days to more than a week to continue services after returning home from the hospital with an order for home health, because the agency is waiting for the corresponding plan of care and/or other orders to be signed and returned.

The process can also be frustrating for physicians who have to use multiple electronic record systems to access requests securely, or find that orders sent to their office were misplaced or misdirected. During the interim, patients are likely to suffer loss of strength and mobility or a myriad of other complications related to their underlying diagnoses, some which may result in unnecessary harm and/or re-hospitalization.

HHAU supports SJR1 because it seeks to improve coordination of care for older adults and other patient populations receiving home health care services. Streamlining communication between a primary care provider and a home health care provider would improve timeliness of care, decrease costs associated with securing orders, and reduce re-hospitalizations and other consequences of delay. Additionally, HHAU is excited because the implications of improved coordination of care extend beyond home health, and help to provide a true continuum of care between healthcare providers practicing in different settings.

Thank you for your consideration and representation,

Matthew D. Hansen, DPT
HHAU Executive Director
director@hhau.org
801-312-9110





February 5, 2020

Dear Utah Legislators,

The Utah Falls Prevention Alliance (FPA) in concert with the Utah Commission on Aging (UCOA) is pleased to support S.J.R.1 Supporting Coordination of Care for Older Adults Receiving Home Health Care Services.

Older adults who are at high risk for falls are frail and suffer from multiple medical conditions. For these individuals, timely communication between healthcare providers is important for preventing medical complications.

A prominent gap in communication between healthcare providers is when an older adult is discharged from the hospital and begins receiving home health care. The current system for physicians to approve and sign home health orders is based on phone calls and faxes. This process is time-consuming, not cost effective, and frequently results in delays in the start of care. Streamlining communication between home healthcare providers and primary care providers will reduce the possibility of medical complications and unnecessary hospital visits.

FPA represents over 30 agencies and organizations, working to increase public awareness of older adults falls and fall prevention and to improve coordination of care for older Utahns. UCOA hosts the [Falls Prevention website](#) which contains information and helpful tips for older adults and care partners to prevent falls.

As Utahns age, falls will increase and place a strain on our healthcare, EMS, and social support agencies. One important way we can address the upcoming need is to build infrastructure that enhances communication between service providers, reduces fragmentation, and thereby improves patient care.

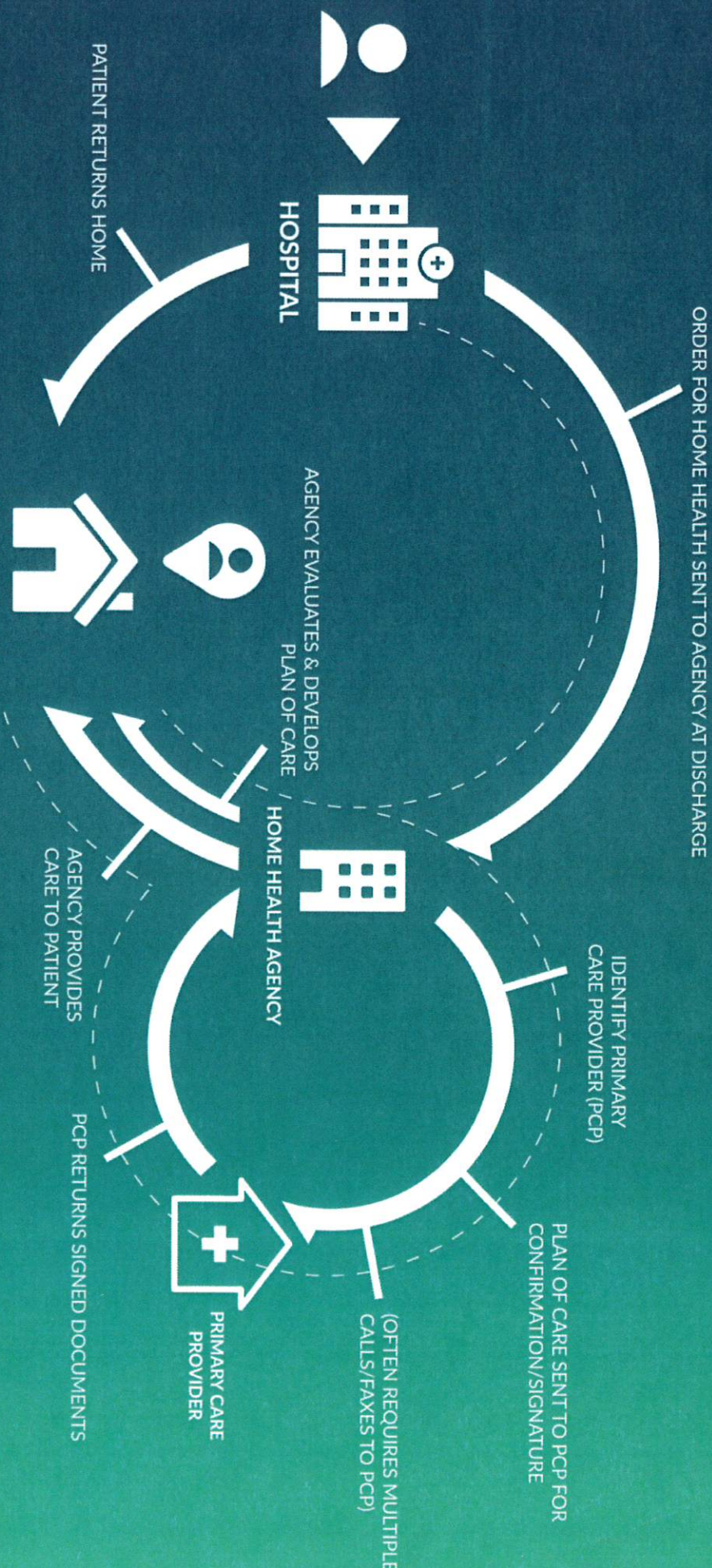
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Ence".

Rob Ence
Executive Director
Utah Commission on Aging

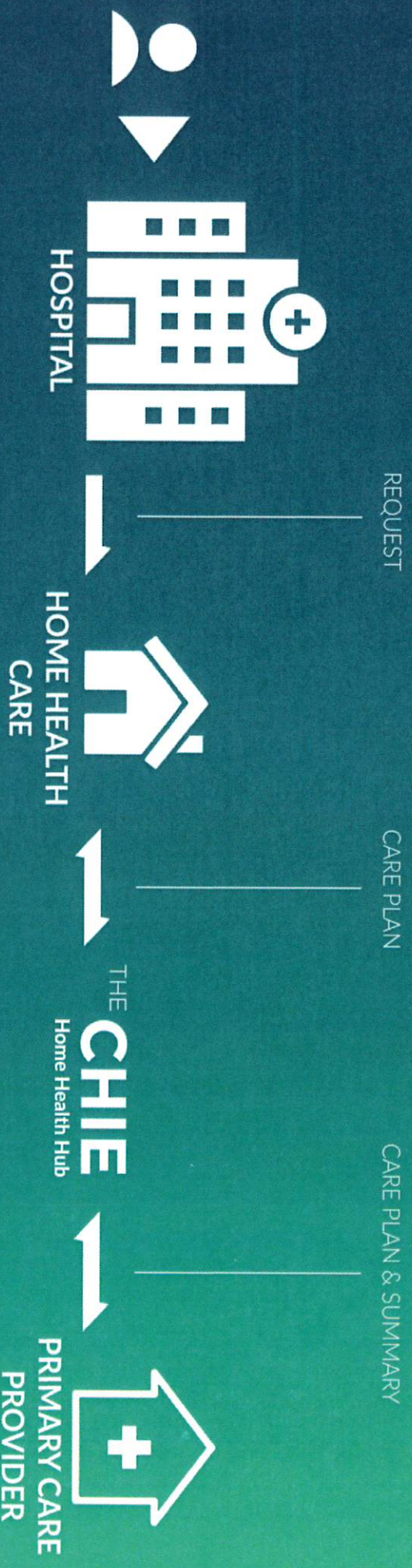
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Aerts".

Sally Aerts
Co-Chair
Utah Falls Prevention Alliance



Existing Model (5-20 day process)

Home Health Hub Model



48-hour process