

Board of Directors, Audit Committee and Management
Rural Health Redesign Center Authority
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

As part of our audit of the financial statements of the Rural Health Redesign Center Authority (Authority) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, we wish to communicate the following to you.

AUDIT SCOPE AND RESULTS

Auditor's Responsibility Under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America and the Standards Applicable to Financial Audits Contained in *Government Auditing Standards* Issued by the Comptroller General of the United States

An audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States is designed to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about the financial statements. In performing auditing procedures, we establish scopes of audit tests in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. Our engagement does not include a detailed audit of every transaction. Our contract more specifically describes our responsibilities.

These standards require communication of significant matters related to the financial statement audit that are relevant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance in overseeing the financial reporting process. Such matters are communicated in the remainder of this letter or have previously been communicated during other phases of the audit. The standards do not require the auditor to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to be communicated with those charged with governance.

An audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities. Our contract more specifically describes your responsibilities.

Qualitative Aspects of Significant Accounting Policies and Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

The Authority's significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 of the audited financial statements.

Alternative Accounting Treatments

No matters are reportable.

Management Judgments and Accounting Estimates

No matters are reportable.

Significant Unusual Transactions

Significant unusual transactions represent significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size or nature. We have preliminarily identified the following transactions that we consider to be significant and unusual.

No matters are reportable.

Financial Statement Disclosures

The following areas involve particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures for which we are prepared to discuss the issues involved and related judgments made in formulating those disclosures:

- Long-term debt
- Related parties

Audit Adjustments

During the course of any audit, an auditor may propose adjustments to financial statement amounts. Management evaluates our proposals and records those adjustments which, in its judgment, are required to prevent the financial statements from being materially misstated. A misstatement is a difference between the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a reported financial statement item and that which is required for the item to be presented fairly in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Some adjustments proposed were not recorded because their aggregate effect is not currently material; however, they involve areas in which adjustments in the future could be material, individually or in the aggregate.

Areas in which adjustments were proposed include:

Proposed Audit Adjustments Recorded

- Gross up annual operating activity closed to net position
- Correct net position for expenses incurred prior to initiation of accounting records

Proposed Audit Adjustments Not Recorded

- No unrecorded audit adjustments

Auditor's Judgments About the Quality of the Authority's Accounting Principles

No matters are reportable.

Significant Issues Discussed With Management

During the Audit Process

During the audit process, the following issues were discussed or were the subject of correspondence with management. These discussions occurred in the normal course of providing our professional services, and our retention was not dependent on any conclusions reached:

- Relationship with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model, and the Rural Health Redesign Center Organization
- Business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement
- Transactions with related parties
- Various transactions within the first year of operations

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

Our audit requires cooperative effort between management and the audit team. During our audit, we found significant difficulties in working effectively on the following matters:

- The trial balance was fragmented due to processing changes during the year and outsourcing to a contracted accounting service; interim operational results were closed to the net position prior to year end

Other Material Communications

Listed below are other material communications between management and us related to the audit:

- Management representation letter (attached)

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Rural Health Redesign Center Authority as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, we considered the Entity's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain a deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.

A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

We observed the following matter that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Significant Deficiency

During the year ended June 30, 2021, certain transactions were recorded through the net position (deficit) resulting in audit adjustments necessary to correctly report periodic revenues and expenses.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors, others within the Authority, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

BKD, LLP

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
December 15, 2021

Representation of:
Rural Health Redesign Center Authority
625 Forster Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17210

Provided to:
BKD, LLP
Certified Public Accountants
30 Isabella Street, Suite 107
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212

The undersigned (“We”) are providing this letter in connection with BKD’s audit of our financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021.

Our representations are current and effective as of the date of BKD’s report: December 15, 2021.

Our engagement with BKD is based on our contract for services dated: July 12, 2021.

Our Responsibility and Consideration of Material Matters

We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements subject to BKD’s report in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies; establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, operations, and compliance; and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

Confirmation of Matters Specific to the Subject Matter of BKD’s Report

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following:

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of our contract, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
2. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of:
 - a. Internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
 - b. Internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

3. We have reviewed and approved a draft of the financial statements and related notes referred to above, which you prepared in connection with your audit of our financial statements. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements and related notes.
4. We have provided you with:
 - a. Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters.
 - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d. All minutes of meetings of the governing body held through the date of this letter or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared. All unsigned copies of minutes provided to you are copies of our original minutes approved by the governing body, if applicable, and maintained as part of our records.
 - e. All significant contracts and grants.
5. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
6. We have informed you of all current risks of a material amount that are not adequately prevented or detected by our procedures with respect to:
 - a. Misappropriation of assets.
 - b. Misrepresented or misstated assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, or net position.
7. We have no knowledge of any known or suspected fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets involving:
 - a. Management or employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - b. Others, where activities of others could have a material effect on the financial statements.
8. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, customers, regulators, suppliers, or others.
9. We have assessed the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud and disclosed to you any such risk identified.
10. We have disclosed to you the identity of all of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We understand that the term related party refers to an affiliate, management and members of their immediate families, component units, and any other party with which the entity may deal if the entity can significantly influence, or be influenced by, the management or operating policies of the other. The term affiliate refers to a party that directly or indirectly controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the entity.

11. All transactions entered into by the entity with entities that are related parties were conducted on terms equivalent to those prevailing in an arm's-length transaction.
12. We are not aware of any side agreements or other arrangements (either written or oral) that are in place.
13. Except as reflected in the financial statements, there are no:
 - a. Plans or intentions that may materially affect carrying values or classifications of assets and liabilities.
 - b. Material transactions omitted or improperly recorded in the financial records.
 - c. Material gain/loss contingencies requiring accrual or disclosure, including those arising from environmental remediation obligations.
 - d. Events occurring subsequent to the statement of net position date through the date of this letter requiring adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.
 - e. Agreements to purchase assets previously sold.
 - f. Restrictions on cash balances or compensating balance agreements.
 - g. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the entity is contingently liable.
14. We have disclosed to you all known instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
15. We have no reason to believe the entity owes any penalties or payments under the Employer Shared Responsibility Provisions of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* nor have we received any correspondence from the IRS or other agencies indicating such payments may be due.
16. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation or claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. We have not sought or received attorney's services related to pending or threatened litigation or claims during or subsequent to the audit period. Also, we are not aware of any litigation or claims, pending or threatened, for which legal counsel should be sought.

17. Adequate provisions and allowances have been accrued for any material losses from:
 - a. Uncollectible receivables.
 - b. Reducing obsolete or excess inventories to estimated net realizable value.
 - c. Sales commitments, including those unable to be fulfilled.
 - d. Purchase commitments in excess of normal requirements or above prevailing market prices.

18. Except as disclosed in the financial statements, the entity has:
 - a. Satisfactory title to all recorded assets, and they are not subject to any liens, pledges, or other encumbrances.
 - b. Complied with all aspects of contractual and grant agreements, for which noncompliance would materially affect the financial statements.

19. The financial statements disclose all significant estimates and material concentrations known to us. Significant estimates are estimates at the statement of net position date that could change materially within the next year. Concentrations refer to volumes of business, revenues, available sources of supply, or markets for which events could occur that would significantly disrupt normal finances within the next year. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

20. The fair values of financial and nonfinancial assets and liabilities, if any, recognized in the financial statements or disclosed in the notes thereto are reasonable estimates based on the methods and assumptions used. The methods and significant assumptions used result in measurements of fair value appropriate for financial statement recognition and disclosure purposes and have been applied consistently from period to period, taking into account any changes in circumstances. The significant assumptions appropriately reflect market participant assumptions.

21. We have not been designated as a potentially responsible party (PRP or equivalent status) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or other cognizant regulatory agency with authority to enforce environmental laws and regulations.

22. With respect to any nonattest services you have provided us during the year, including preparation of the audited financial statements and supplemental schedules.
 - a. We have designated a qualified management-level individual to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the nonattest services.
 - b. We have established and monitored the performance of the nonattest services to ensure they meet our objectives.
 - c. We have made any and all decisions involving management functions with respect to the nonattest services and accept full responsibility for such decisions.
 - d. We have evaluated the adequacy of the services performed and any findings that resulted.

23. With regard to deposit and investment activities:

- a. All deposit, repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements, and investment transactions have been made in accordance with legal and contractual requirements.
- b. Disclosures of deposit and investment balances and risks in the financial statements are consistent with our understanding of the applicable laws regarding enforceability of any pledges of collateral.
- c. We understand that your audit does not represent an opinion regarding the enforceability of any collateral pledges.

24. As an entity subject to *Government Auditing Standards*:

- a. We acknowledge that we are responsible for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
- b. We have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that have a direct and material effect on the determination of amounts in our financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
- c. We have identified and disclosed to you any violations or possible violations of laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements whose effects should be considered for recognition and/or disclosure in the financial statements or for your reporting on noncompliance.
- d. We have taken or will take timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud, abuse, illegal acts, or violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements that you or other auditors report.
- e. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- f. We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives of your audit and the corrective actions taken to address any significant findings and recommendations made in such audits, attestation engagements, or other studies.
- g. We have provided our views on any findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions with respect thereto, to you for inclusion in the findings and recommendations referred to in your report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on your audit of the financial statements performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

25. The supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, consisting of management's discussion and analysis, (budgetary comparisons, modified approach to infrastructure, pension, and other postemployment benefit information), has been prepared and is measured and presented in conformity with the applicable GASB pronouncements, and we acknowledge our responsibility for the information. The information contained therein is based on all facts, decisions, and conditions currently known to us and is measured using the same methods and assumptions as were used in the preparation of the financial statements. We believe the significant assumptions underlying the measurement and/or presentation of the information are reasonable and appropriate. There has been no change from the preceding period in the methods of measurement and presentation.
26. We acknowledge the current economic volatility presents difficult circumstances and challenges for our industry. Entities are potentially facing constraints on liquidity, difficulty obtaining financing, etc. We understand the values of the assets and liabilities recorded in the financial statements could change rapidly, resulting in material future adjustments that could negatively impact the entity's ability to meet debt service requirements or maintain sufficient liquidity.

We acknowledge that you have no responsibility for future changes caused by the current economic environment and the resulting impact on the entity's financial statements. Further, management and governance are solely responsible for all aspects of managing the entity, including evaluating capital needs and liquidity plans; etc.

Gary Zegiestowsky, Executive Director

Janice Walters, Chief Operating Officer