



California Health Benefit Exchange

June 30, 2011

Board Members

Kimberly Belshé
Diana S. Dooley
Paul Fearer
Susan Kennedy
Robert Ross, M.D.

Joel Ario, Director, Office of Health Insurance Exchanges
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 737F
Washington, DC 20201

RE: California Health Benefit Exchange Level I Establishment Grant

Dear Mr. Ario:

On behalf of the California Health Benefit Exchange, I am pleased to submit this Level I Establishment Grant application as specified in the terms of the "Cooperative Agreement to Support Establishment of State-Operated Health Insurance Exchanges for the time period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

As you know from your recent visit, California has accomplished much to date, including creating our five-member Board. Our fifth member was sworn in Monday and attended our fifth Board meeting on Tuesday of this week when this grant application was formally approved. Establishment grant funding will allow California to engage in planning, research, and early implementation in all 11 core areas identified in the application. Requested funds will help the state to secure policy goals for the Exchange consistent with state and federal laws, as well as secure staff, consultants and expert resources and actively engage stakeholders to inform and support Exchange activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact Patricia E. Powers, Acting Administrator, at (916) 651-8062 or via email at pat.powers@hbex.ca.gov, or Alex Kemper-McCall at (916) 651-0407 or via email at amccall@chhs.ca.gov, if you have any questions about this application. And of course, you are always welcome to contact me at (916) 654-3724.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana S. Dooley".

Diana S. Dooley
Chair, California Health Benefit Exchange