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**Ronald Palang, MD**  
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**Mark Wilson, MD**  
MEMORIAM

**CLINICAL LOCATIONS**

**SETMA 1**  
2929 CALDER  
SUITE 100  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

**SETMA 2**  
3570 COLLEGE  
SUITE 200  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77701

**SETMA West**  
2010 DOWLEN  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77706

**SETMA Nederland**  
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PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS 77642

**SETMA Orange**  
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ORANGE, TEXAS 77630

**SETMA Lumberton**  
137B LHS DRIVE  
LUMBERTON, TEXAS 77657

March 18, 2015

SAMHSA Grant Evaluation Team

Re: Southeast Texas Medical Associates, LLP (SETMA) Letter of Commitment  
On Behalf of Counseling and Special Populations Department  
Lamar University, Member of The Texas State University System  
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Sirs:

It is our pleasure to provide a letter of commitment in support of the Counseling and Special Populations Department at Lamar University's application for the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) grant. SETMA is also working with Lamar in expanding our Behavioral Health program within our Patient-Centered Medical Home.

SETMA is accredited for Patient-Centered Medical Home and for Ambulatory Care (for details of these accreditations, see <http://www.setma.com/Accreditations/pdfs/accreditations.pdf>) by:

- **National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) -- 2010-2016**
- **NCQA – Diabetes Recognition – 2010 – 2016**
- **NCQA – Heart And Stroke Recognition – 2010-2016**
- **NCQA – Distinction in Patient Experience Reporting – 2014-2015**
- **Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) -- 2010-2017**
- **URAC – 2014-2017**
- **The Joint Commission – 2014-2017**
- **The Joint Commission – Clinical Laboratory Services – 2014-2016**
- **Texas Medical Foundation, CMS' Texas QIO -- The Texas Practice Quality Improvement Award -- 2012-2014**

The Texas Physician Practice Quality Improvement Award program is based on four major components: adoption of health information technology; regular use of population care management methods; participation in data reporting quality initiatives; and top performance on nationally recognized clinical outcomes measures.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services**

Lamar's grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is focused on brief screening procedures for substance

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abuse. It is a specific model that SAMHSA endorses in primary care settings. SETMA's experience in data analytics; clinical decision support and population health makes us an ideal laboratory for this study.

SETMA believes that the LUSBIRT program will be in direct alignment with our commitment to providing a full spectrum of care to our patients. All of our services and support tools are displayed at [www.setma.com](http://www.setma.com) under EPM (Electronic Patient Management). SETMA is dedicated to providing integrated behavioral healthcare in all of our clinics and the LUSBIRT program is another example of an exemplary practice that will further our mission.

We believe that providing a grant to Lamar will have far reaching implications and will work to increasing the overall wellness of the Southeast Texas community. In addition, it will provide evidence to others that such programs can not only affect the health of our clients but can be a model for others to adopt.

SETMA operates both a Moderately Complex Reference Laboratory which includes Urine Drug Screening for discovery of abuse and a High Complexity Regional Laboratory where we perform toxicology studies for management of patients taking chronic pain medications and genetic screening to provide cutting edge personalized care to all of our patients. We have always worked with Care Coordination to identify our patients who have substance abuse problems and to find them support.

### **Acknowledgements of SETMA – Awards and Recognitions**

In 2014, SETMA received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Participation in the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network 2013-2014 Season. SETMA has also participated in an HIV Screening program with the CDC for the past five years. In 2015, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services published a toolkit for the reduction of the use of antipsychotic medication in long-term residential care. SETMA has deployed a clinical decision support tool to facilitate the use of this information in the 23 Nursing Homes whose residents we serve. (see <http://www.setma.com/epm-tools/reduction-of-antipsychotic-medications-toolkit>)

In 2011, SETMA was named one of Thirty Exemplary Practices for Clinical Decision Support by the United States Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology. In 2012, SETMA received the eHealth Innovator of the Year Award. In 2011, SETMA was named one of 30 Exemplar practices by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for their Learning from Exemplary Practices (LEAP) research project conducted by The MacColl Institute (see <http://www.setma.com/letters/Robert-Wood-Johnson-Foundation-PCT-LEAP>). In 2012, HIMSS named Dr. James L. Holly as the Physician IT Leadership Award winner. And, in 2014, SETMA and Dr. Holly received the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PC-PCC) Inaugural Patient Centered Medical Home Practice Award. In 2003, SETMA was named as one of 50 Exemplary Primary Care Practices by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation.

## **SETMA's Resources**

### **SETMA's Commitment to The Triple Aim and to Healthcare Transformation**

The SETMA Foundation provides funds to give support to our patients who cannot afford care. Annually, SETMA's partners contribute \$500,000 to that Foundation. None of that money can profit SETMA and can only be used for healthcare education and providing care patients otherwise cannot afford including medications and care by providers not in SETMA.

Forty percent of SETMA's patients are treated in a global-at-risk health maintenance organization setting. Twelve years ago, SETMA asked our HMO to eliminate co-pays. This has resulted in demonstrated improvement of care as it eliminated economic barriers to patients receiving care. SETMA also spends over \$190,000 a month on unreimbursed and uncompensated services to improve the continuity of care and the quality of care our patients receive.

SETMA works in a team environment with Departments organized around Care Coordination, Long-term Residential Care, Accreditation, Education, Hospital Team Care, etc. Once a month, SETMA closes all offices and spend four hours together teaching one another and reviewing the quality of our performance.

SETMA has seven clinical locations with 48 healthcare providers which cover our entire region referred to as The Golden Triangle. We believe that the LUSBIRT program will be in direct alignment with our commitment to providing a full spectrum of care to our patients including primary care (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Nurse Practitioners), infectious disease, rheumatology, ophthalmology, cardiology, and neurology. SETMA has an extensive education department for Diabetes Self-Management Education, Medical Nutrition Services (accredited by the American Diabetes Association) and for many other needs in a progressive practice.

SETMA is dedicated to providing integrated behavioral healthcare in all of our clinics and the LUSBIRT program is another example of exemplary practice that will further our mission. SETMA will be integrating LUSBIRT practitioners (e.g., post-doctoral residents, doctoral interns, master's degree interns, social work interns, and LU professors) to provide integrated behavioral healthcare services including brief substance abuse screening and referral to treatment (SBIRT). These individuals will work in conjunction with all of our medical team and specifically with Dr. Donna Keith who is SETMA's psychiatric provider.

As part of their work in addressing a full range of behavioral healthcare issues, LU students and faculty will identify, address, and secure substance abuse treatment for our patients. We believe that the SBIRT grant will help to support our physicians and will fully align with the SETMA model of care. (see <http://www.setma.com/The-SETMA-Way/pdfs/setma-model-of-care-pc-mh-healthcare-innovation-the-future-of-healthcare.pdf>)

In order to support LU in integrating into our facilities, we will supply them with the following in-kind commitments as part of the SBIRT grant:

**Office space**

*1 office per site = 6 offices x \$1000 month = \$6000/month = \$72,000 annual in-kind commitment*

**Secretarial Support**

*1 portion of admin per site = 6 sites X \$5000/annually = \$30,000 annual in-kind commitment*

**Total Annual Commitment to LUSBIRT = \$102,000 x 3 years = \$306,000 in-kind commitment**

We are committed to the integrated behavioral health model and know that the LUSBIRT approach will build on our tradition of excellence. We are excited to offer this in-kind commitment to support the SAMHSA funding. If you have any questions about this commitment, please contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,

**James L. Holly, MD**  
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