



May 9, 2014

Benefis North Central Region Pediatric Specialty Clinic

The Benefis North Central Region Pediatric Specialty Clinic is one of 3 regional clinics funded through a Department of Public Health and Human Services grant. We provide a clinical site and a team of health care providers (pediatrician, nurse coordinator, social worker, respiratory therapist, dietician, and others) which are led by a board-certified pediatric specialist. This team comes together to evaluate and develop a comprehensive plan of care for children with a special condition. The pediatric specialists travel to Great Falls to see the children in our region, which allows these families to keep their care close to home and avoid expenses associated with traveling out of the region or state for specialty care. We also facilitate telemedicine follow-up appointments through our clinic. In the first quarter of 2014, we held 20 days of specialty clinics and provided care for over 130 children with special health care needs, and their families.

We currently have specialty clinics for:

- Cystic fibrosis
- Cleft/craniofacial
- Metabolic
- Genetics
- Endocrinology
- Orthopedics
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- High-risk infant screening

Goals of the clinics include:

- Assure Family Participation & Satisfaction
- Provide access to Medical Home
- Support Early and Continuous Screening
- Adequate Insurance
- Access to Community-based Systems of Care
- Facilitate Transition to Adulthood

Benefis' current grant contract ends in September of this year. Though we have heard that the State intends to continue with this funding, a request for proposal has not been issued yet. The continuation of this grant funding is imperative in order to allow Benefis to continue to provide the infrastructure and support for the Pediatric Specialty Clinic, bringing pediatric specialists to our region to care for children with special healthcare needs, close to home.

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CHILDREN & FAMILIES INTERIM COMMITTEE
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Exhibit 8