

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

**ACTION REFERRAL**

*Relog to Bowling from Wells on 4/19/07*

<b>TO</b> <i>Bowling</i>	<b>DATE</b> <i>4-16-07</i>
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<b>DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY</b>		<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	
1. LOG NUMBER <b>000643</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____  <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>C. Kerr, Wells</i>			
<i>Cleared 5/11/07, letter attached.</i>			

APPROVALS <small>(only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1. <i>See attached email from Nancy Robert dated 4/27/07</i>			
2.			
3.			
4.			

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

**ACTION REFERRAL**

TO <i>Mellon</i>	DATE <i>4-16-07</i>
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<b>DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY</b>		<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	
1. LOG NUMBER  <b>000643</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>C: Kern</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> I FOIA DATE DUE _____			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action			

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

# communicare

*Joe Webb*

*Mr. Kerr*

Post Office Box 186  
Columbia, SC 29202-0186

T. 803 | 933.9183  
F. 803 | 254.0892

[www.communicare.org](http://www.communicare.org)

April 11, 2007

**RECEIVED**

APR 12 2007

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Robert M. Kerr  
Director  
SC Department of Health and Human Services  
PO Box 8206  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Dear Mr. Kerr:

Per our recent conversation, I have attached a proposal requesting funding for Information Technology Integration. This IT Plan will enable our organization to continue to grow and provide the most cost effective and efficient services to our patients.

Thank you for your continued support of our organization. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Ken Trogon  
Executive Director

KPT/dr

Enclosure

## **Communicare**

### **2007 Proposal for Information Technology Integration**

#### **A. Program Description:**

Communicare is a statewide non-profit healthcare network providing medical referrals and donated medications to working uninsured residents in all 46 counties. In 2006, through time volunteered by over 2,500 healthcare providers, donated medication from 11 pharmaceutical companies, and administrative support from government entities, Communicare provided referrals and medications valued at \$30 million to over 14,000 patients. By improving the healthcare status of South Carolina residents, many have a better chance for success in the workforce and probability of a longer life by stabilizing and improving chronic illnesses. **The impact is taxpayer dollars saved by reducing reliance on emergency room visits for basic healthcare.**

#### **B. Public/Private Partnership:**

Communicare is a national model for the success of public/private partnerships. By bridging the gap between South Carolina's working uninsured and much-needed healthcare services, we have created an affordable solution to healthcare accessibility. Communicare leverages its State funding with significant support from the private sector, including support from local and national foundations, national pharmaceutical companies, corporate and individual donors, and patient application fees. In doing so, Communicare has helped safeguard South Carolina's long-term health and made wellness an attainable goal for South Carolina's working uninsured residents. Currently we match every State \$1 with more than \$4 from the private sector.

#### **C. Expansion Plan:**

According to the Robert Wood's Johnson Foundation, there are over 605,000 uninsured residents in South Carolina; the 2005 health rankings, released by the United Health Foundation, put our State at 31st in the Nation in the number of uninsured residents. In South Carolina, 60% of the uninsured are *employed* (Cover the Uninsured, South Carolina) which translates to potentially over 360,000 *working uninsured* residents

To meet the increasing needs of our State's working uninsured, Communicare has planned a critical growth initiative targeting our pharmacy, outreach division and medical referral services effort. This statewide expansion would result in partnerships with additional pharmaceutical companies increasing the number of drugs available for our patients, increased outreach opportunities to identify and enroll more patients and new partners within our volunteer medical referral program to provide healthcare services at no charge.

#### **D. Accomplishments to date:**

The AccessCare patient database is in the process of being upgraded. This includes internal control processes being implemented to reduce keying errors by tracking user activity. The reporting aspect of the database is in the process of being enhanced to the point that we can pull reports from any keyed field. Communicare has purchased a new higher capacity QS1 (pharmacy dispensing system) server to allow for a new shipping interface which has also been purchased and installed. Finally Communicare has purchased a new network server and we are in the process of data migration from the current three separate obsolete servers onto one with a reliable backup system.

## **Communicare**

### **2007 Proposal for Information Technology Integration**

#### **E. Future Initiatives:**

Communicare plans to purchase Pitney Bowes software which allows us to select the most cost effective shipping option. Purchasing the QSI shipping interface was the first phase of this process. We are currently awaiting the proposal from Pitney Bowes that includes leasing two computers for shipping, the shipping software, and software for all in house mailings (i.e. newsletters, applications, invitations) that is currently being performed by a contracted mail service. We estimate a cost of \$1,500 per month for fifty one (51) months lease for a cost of approximately \$76,500.

We also are in the process of integrating our two patient database systems, AccessCare and QSI. This type of integration will allow our outreach staff to perform presumptive eligibility in the field and enter the patients into the database. We would also pilot this ability to one of our referral partners in the Pee Dee. This integration involves acquiring an import/export file from QSI to be able to batch load information from one database to the other ultimately reducing staff costs as well as saving staff time, as currently all applications must be keyed separately into both systems. Approximate cost of this file is \$3,000. Also included here is contracting with a programmer to alter the programming of our databases to be able to feed the information back and forth. Cost per hour is \$40 for 100-150 hours for a total cost of \$6,000. Total estimated cost of this project is \$9,000.

Finally, our long term project is to contract with a programmer to write a pharmacy dispensing system that is unique to Communicare. Other pharmacies, i.e. CVS, Wal-Mart, Target, operate under their own dispensing program. Currently QSI has us set up similar to a Nursing Home or other institution. Our system would be specific for a mail-order pharmacy. We project the cost of this project to be \$300,000.

#### **F. Funding Request:**

Communicare requests a total of \$385,500 to implement, integrate, and upgrade our information technology to continue to grow our organization and be able to provide the most cost effective and efficient service possible to our patients. By continuing and expanding our partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, we can make healthcare affordable and accessible to all of South Carolina's working uninsured.

**From:** Brenda James  
**To:** Nancy Rabert  
**Subject:** Re: Log #643

That's fine, I will change it in my system. Thanks Nancy

>>> Nancy Rabert 4/27/2007 9:14 am >>>  
Don't think it is a N/A any longer. Susan wrote at the top of the blue sheet to draft a response for her signature.

>>> Brenda James 4/27/2007 9:05 AM >>>  
Marga,  
Bz just called to have Log #643 relogged to Rhonda. So Rhonda has the blue sheet. It's a N/A.  
Thanks, Brenda



*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

May 11, 2007

Mr. Ken Trogon  
Executive Director  
Communicare  
Post Office Box 186  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0186

Dear Mr. Trogon:

Thank you for your letter requesting funding for Communicare's Information Technology Integration plan. We also appreciate your taking the time to discuss this proposal with Mr. James Assey, Director of Pharmacy Services.

Based on our review of your request, we regret to inform you that the Department of Health and Human Services cannot increase the amount of funding currently allocated to Communicare. Currently, Communicare receives \$200,000 in state funds as appropriated by the General Assembly. Additionally, there is a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Health and Human Services and Communicare for Medicaid outreach with a budget of \$200,000.

We regret we cannot be of more assistance in this matter. Your commitment to addressing the healthcare needs of the working uninsured in South Carolina is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Susan B. Bowling*  
Susan B Bowling  
Acting Director

SBB/gar

#643  
✓