

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Resolution No. R2012-0071

Sponsored by: <b>Councilmembers Brady, Conwell, Miller, Rogers, Jones, Simon, Connally, Gallagher, Germana and Greenspan and County Executive FitzGerald</b>	<b>A Resolution</b> supporting The MetroHealth System's and State of Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Demonstration application to the U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County residents have median incomes 18 percent below national levels and Cleveland city residents earn about half the national average; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 158,000 Cuyahoga County adults are estimated to be uninsured, and do not presently qualify for Medicaid programs; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is the third poorest city in the nation, and over 60 percent of the region's poor now live in the surrounding suburbs; and,

WHEREAS, as the public hospital, The MetroHealth System provides healthcare to all, regardless of a patient's ability to pay; and,

WHEREAS, The MetroHealth System provided over 226,000 uninsured patient visits in 2011, an increase of 42 percent since 2008; and,

WHEREAS, all 11 MetroHealth primary care practices have achieved the highest level of recognition from the National Center for Quality Assurance; and,

WHEREAS, MetroHealth has been recognized by Better Health Greater Cleveland for providing outstanding care to uninsured and Medicaid patients with diabetes, heart failure, and high blood pressure; and,

WHEREAS, The MetroHealth System, Cuyahoga County, and the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have an opportunity to partner to reduce the uninsured rate in Cuyahoga County, to improve the health status and quality of care for thousands of county residents, and help prepare the safety net system and uninsured individuals for the health coverage expansion in 2014 through a waiver of existing rules from CMS, such waivers being the standard practice for demonstrating new and innovative ways of providing health care; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio in conjunction with The MetroHealth System will submit the Medicaid Waiver Demonstration application to CMS on or about April 24, 2012; and

