

October 22, 2020

Dear Dr. Weed,

I can't thank you enough for your time and energy given to our diversity and inclusion program. It was an exceptional hour-and-a-half.

Every word you said was true. I feel there are two reasons patients with extraordinary needs don't always have them fully addressed: a strong bias against patients complex issues (and, specifically, certain kinds of ailments and diseases), and a very real shortage of resources, including time.

Both need immediate attention. We're here to take care of people. It's a mission of healthcare organizations, yet so many factors interfere, including money, clinical resources, expertise.

There is the reason I mentioned at the end of your presentation, as well. You are a wonderfully charismatic man. It's no surprise so many people rally to your support. You are inspirational, motivated, you self-advocate extraordinarily well and you have a vision for your own care. People enjoy being with you.

When patients lack these gifts, it's our job to step in and provide them. Patients need to be present in their care and if they're hesitant, we must meet them where they are. Trust is so critical yet so hard to develop, particularly in these times, with a pandemic raging, the relative risk it brings to many people actually lower than the avoidance of care their condition requires.

I'm afraid we'll emerge from COVID with a group of much sicker patients, their needs put on hold while the storm passes. We'll see and I hope not. Your talk describes the need to find them and help them and for that, it was so incredibly timely.

Thank you again. I hope we continue to cross paths.

Pete

Peter Steere
Chief Operating Officer
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