

## **Statement from Selena Fox, Circle Sanctuary**

The healthcare system in the USA is complicated and in great need of reform. I know this not only from my own experiences in getting healthcare needs met for myself and family members, but also as a psychotherapist and chaplain navigating the healthcare realm as part of Pagan ministry services.

For those without insurance, medical conditions that can be helped by early intervention often go untreated and sometimes leads to premature death. Even for those who have health insurance, navigating the maze of providers can be challenging. In addition to doing spiritual healing and counseling support as part of hospital chaplaincy work I do, part of my work also involves helping to facilitate communications between the patient and loved ones and various hospital staff members and the healthcare system itself.

Healthcare delivery in the USA needs to be simplified, more holistic, and more user friendly. More mental health services need to be covered as well as effective alternative therapies. There needs to be good quality, affordable healthcare for all. I hope the Affordable Care Act will help move the reform process forward but realize that it is not a panacea.

Regardless of what one's viewpoints are on the Affordable Care Act, it is my hope that we all can find ways to innovate, communicate, and collaborate on bringing about a better healthcare system in this country. Part of this process is to be an informed healthcare consumer and to take an active rather than passive part in interfacing with healthcare providers and institutions. And part of this involves being an informed voter and voting.