



1-17-2024

Since we do not have the opportunity to respond to comments made by the County Administrator during Board of Commissioners' meetings, we feel it is necessary to clarify information following today's presentation.

Mr. Jensen asserted that MCHD's statements about the County's ability to seize assets under their initial Draft Ambulance Service Area Plan are "scare tactics" and not based in reality. Here are the facts:

In every Plan since the 1998 ASA Plan, the language states:

20. "Morrow County Health District (Board)" means a five (5) person board elected by the voters of Morrow County. The Board is elected to assure that all areas of the county are represented. The primary responsibility of the Board is to administer the county medical fund and to administer and oversee all aspects of the medical needs of Morrow County.

- g. The ambulance service provider vacating their area will be required to turnover their ambulance(s) and equipment to the Board for use by the recruited interim personnel until a replacement service can be established in the area. Any compensation due will be negotiated by the vacating ambulance service's Board of Directors and the Board. In the event that no solution can be reached through the Board efforts within a reasonable amount of time, assistance will be requested form the appropriate State agencies.

In other words, the Plans historically state that the Morrow County Health District Board (defined as "Board" throughout the plan) retains the right to control and direct assets.

The draft ASA Plan submitted by Morrow County to the Oregon Health Authority on December 11, 2023 reads:

(i) "Board" means the Morrow County Board of Commissioners.

(G) The ambulance service Provider vacating their area will be required to turnover their ambulance(s) and equipment to the Board for use by the recruited interim personnel until a replacement service can be established in the area. Any compensation due will be negotiated by the vacating ambulance service's Board of Directors and the Board. In the event that no solution can be reached through the Board efforts within a reasonable amount of time, assistance will be requested form the appropriate State agencies.

Changing the definition of "Board" from Morrow County Health District to Morrow County substantially changes this section such that Morrow County could seize MCHD's assets for an undetermined amount of time with undetermined compensation.

We are grateful that Morrow County has removed this provision from their most recent draft, however, we feel it is necessary to be clear that our concerns were not a "scare tactic."

More information about ambulance services in Morrow County can be found here:

<https://www.morrowcountyhealthdistrict.org/public-information-concerning-ambulance-services-in-morrow-county>