

July 18, 2024

Morrow County and Morrow County Health District are currently in contract negotiations for the proposed award of the North East and Southern Ambulance Service Areas. Below are answers to questions we have heard from the community concerning the proposed IGA. Additional inquiries can be directed to community@mocohd.org.

Why is Morrow County Health District requesting an IGA as part of their Ambulance Service RFP response?

The IGA that MCHD is requesting essentially establishes that certain governmental entities in Morrow County will work together to provide and maintain health related services for Morrow County residents. Among other things, the IGA helps to promote a spirit of cooperation and signals that all entities intend to move forward in collaboration.

Which entities are parties to the IGA and why?

The IGA includes Morrow County Health District, Morrow County, the City of Boardman, the City of Heppner, the City of Lone, the City of Irrigon, and the City of Lexington. These entities were selected because they are local governmental entities that can have a significant impact on if and how healthcare services are provided to Morrow County residents. The support of all of these entities is necessary for the Health District to continue to be successful serving residents and to make future investments in our communities.

From a legal perspective, what does the IGA do?

The IGA establishes that Morrow County and each of the cities in Morrow County will support MCHD and will not attempt to remove territory from the Health District service area that was established by voters in 1994. It also establishes that MCHD will remain true to its mission as a Health District by continuing to provide health related services to all communities in Morrow County.

Why is the IGA necessary now and why is it included in the Ambulance Service RFP response?

Under the new Ambulance Service Plan, there are multiple ambulance service providers for the first time in over 30 years. As of July 17, 2024 the Northern ASA has been awarded to Boardman Fire Rescue District. MCHD will continue to use its tax dollars to provide health related services to all communities. It is important that the County and the Cities support MCHD's health services so that MCHD can continue to invest in increased services. Related to EMS, MCHD will continue to provide and pay for directly the services of an EMS Director who, in addition to providing leadership to the ambulance service, provides CPR and other community and school training across the County and who coordinates the District's emergency response planning. MCHD will also continue to pay for and support Quick Response Teams located in all communities in Morrow County. Additionally, MCHD operates four primary care clinic locations in Morrow County and provides home health and hospice services countywide.

Does this impact other healthcare entities in the region and/or limit other services from being provided?

The IGA does not limit any other entity from providing services in Morrow County nor does it obligate any entities to provide specific services. The IGA simply establishes support from the County and Cities for the services that MCHD does provide.