



12/13/2023

Morrow County Emergency Medical Service Director
Morrow County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 788
Heppner, OR 97836

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY AND BY MAIL

To the Morrow County EMS Director and Board of Commissioners,

This letter serves as 90 days' FORMAL WRITTEN NOTICE, required under the ASA Plans, of Morrow County Health District's decision to discontinue ambulance service in Morrow County and refusal to participate or become party to the current proposed draft ASA Plan prepared by Morrow County.

Since September, we have attempted to engage the County in good faith efforts to resolve the ambulance service dispute. Most importantly, resolving this issue is urgent due to **serious ongoing safety issues** that have been raised with Morrow County on countless occasions. Additionally, as was communicated earlier, Morrow County Health District cannot continue subsidizing the ambulance service at substantial economic loss to the District. The proposed ASA Plan will increase costs to Morrow County Health District substantially and the Plan is not economically or practically sustainable.

On October 21, 2023, Morrow County sent a draft ASA Plan and draft Ordinance with a request for feedback by October 27, 2023. The email from Mr. Jensen stated, *"The County asks for your review and comment of the proposed document. Any comments should be submitted by 4:00 PM on Friday, October 27, 2023. These will be reviewed and responded to as appropriate before the proposed plan is submitted to OHA for their review."*

Morrow County Health District responded as requested, submitting significant feedback, comments, and questions. On December 11, 2023, Morrow County submitted a revised ASA Plan and Ordinance to the Oregon Health Authority for approval **erroneously** stating that Morrow County Health District was interested in providing services under the new plan. In fact, Morrow County Health District had not seen the revised plan, which still does not adequately address questions and issues sent to Morrow County in October. Morrow County made no effort to clarify those questions or issues, nor did they respond to Morrow County Health District, as promised.

Morrow County Health District has made it clear to Morrow County that we cannot proceed under a new ASA Plan without a mutually agreeable service contract, ASA Plan, and Ordinance in place. This is necessary to protect the tax-funded investments made by Morrow County Health District and prevent future disputes about service provision. Morrow County has made no effort to engage in a contracting process and has not followed their stated processes for drafting an ASA Plan and Ordinance. Moreover, despite repeated requests to address the economic challenges, Morrow County Health District experiences in providing services under the current and proposed new plan, no proposal has been tendered or even considered by Morrow County.

Please understand that Morrow County Health District still wishes to provide ambulance service for all of Morrow County under reasonable terms. However, the amendment process currently underway has not been transparent and does not comply with the 1998 ASA Plan, the 2022 ASA Plan, or the currently proposed ASA Plan. **We again ask Morrow County to engage with us in drafting a reasonable and sustainable service contract, ASA Plan, and Ordinance that adequately provide for the safety and privacy of our residents. Until that occurs, please consider this the District's 90 Day Notice of Termination, which commences from the date of this notice.**



**MORROW COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT**
Excellence in Healthcare

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Morrow County Health District has provided ambulance service to all of Morrow County since its formation in 1994. We provide excellent care and we believe our teams are best equipped to meet the needs of Morrow County residents. That said, we need to make clear that we have no intention of becoming a party-provider under the new proposed ASA plan, unless and until appropriate terms and agreements are documented and accepted by the publicly-elected Morrow County Health District Board. Notice has been provided to the Oregon Health Authority of same.

Emily Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

Diane Kilkenny
Board Chair