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07-25-22

An Open Letter to the Public

Due to the ongoing confusion about the current situation, we are sharing this statement with media and concerned Morrow County residents.

Morrow County Health District is the designated ambulance service provider for all of Morrow County and has been providing these services for over 27 years.

Morrow County Health District has requested that the EMS Advisory Committee enforce the Morrow County Ambulance Service Area Plan with respect to how Boardman Fire Rescue District is dispatched. Currently, BFRD is engaging in a practice known as call jumping, where multiple providers respond to a single incident. In Oregon, call jumping is illegal. The state of Oregon has determined that this practice presents risks to the public and patients that do not outweigh the benefits of that action. These concerns were cited in the Determination order prepared by the EMS Advisory Committee and MCHD in March 2022. Actions taken by MCHD and the EMS Advisory Committee are undertaken for the sole purpose of ensuring emergency resources are efficiently and appropriately regulated in an effort to ensure community safety.

MCHD has made no requests involving Boardman Police Department. Boardman Police Department has never been a party to the ongoing dispatch issues.

MCHD has made many attempts to resolve this issue and develop a partnership with BFRD to enhance EMS services. Those attempts have not been successful. At this point, due to the continued public safety risk, MCHD is following the legal process outlined in the ASA Plan as we constructively work toward a reasonable, community-based resolution.

Boardman Fire Rescue District is very good at what they do, and we are beyond grateful for their firefighting services. MCHD’s EMS first responders are also very skilled at what they do and have been saving lives in our communities for 27 years. Changing the way emergency medical services are deployed in Morrow County does not make sense. Not when there is already a system in place that is safe, effective, efficient and proven to save lives

MCHD appreciates community feedback and inquiries. Questions and comments can be sent to [community@moco hd.org](mailto:community@moco hd.org). More information about MCHD’s EMS services is available at <https://www.morrowcountyhealthdistrict.org/emergency-medical-services>.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital & Nursing Facility	Pioneer Memorial Home Health & Hospice	Pioneer Memorial Clinic	Irrigon Medical Clinic	Ione Community Clinic	Morrow County Ambulance
P – (541) 676-9133	P – (541) 676-2946	P – (541) 676-5504	P – (541) 922-5880	P – (541) 422-7128	P – (541) 676-9133
F – (541) 676-2901	F – (541) 676-9017	F – (541) 676-9025	F – (541) 922-5881	F – (541) 422-7145	F – (541) 676-2901
TDD – (541) 676-2908					