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July 5, 2007

Mr. Steve Doyle, County Chairman
Mr. Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
La Crosse County Government
400 4th Street North, Room 3301
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Mr. Doyle and Mr. O'Malley:

The Tri-State Ambulance, Inc. Board of Directors would like to suggest a change in the format of the "Pre-Mediation – Mediation" session scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2007.

We suggest that the parties forgo the "pre-mediation, mediation" and instead, use the time allocated to have interested stakeholders cordially and openly discuss ideas to improve the EMS system in the City of La Crosse in a formal brain storming session with the use of a facilitator.

This recommendation is based on the following:

- Statements presented by Mr. Paczkowski and Chief Cleveland during the La Crosse City Council's Judiciary and Administration Committee meeting on July 3, 2007, indicate that we are all in agreement to look at ways to enhance the EMS system. As such, we feel that a cordial and collaborative session discussing possible enhancements would yield a much better outcome than independently briefing a 3rd party, who would act as a go-between for the parties.
- Since the city indicates they have no current plan for system improvement, there is ample opportunity to brain storm not only the recommendations for EMS system improvement already suggested, but any others the City would like to offer.
- Any changes to our EMS system will affect more than the five entities identified in the mediation process and many stakeholders from our entire region have expressed a desire to be included in the discussions. Having the discussion in the open would allow other stakeholders to either be present, or be informed of the discussions. This is an issue that touches the lives of every resident in the Coulee Region. We feel strongly that discussions regarding any potential changes to the EMS system should be open to public disclosure to facilitate transparency and allow those impacted to have input into the recommendations.
- We feel that a facilitated cordial, inclusive method to discuss improvements to the EMS system would be much more productive and save the taxpayers an expensive pre-mediation and mediation process that may not be necessary if the stakeholders agree on EMS system enhancements proposed and discussed openly.

It was also evident based on City Council member statements made during the City Council's Judiciary and Administration Committee meeting that many of the City Council members present at the meeting feel that mediation may not be the best course of action and that other stakeholders should have representation in an openly discussed process.

Medical Care in Motion

If this open, collaborative process does not yield positive outcomes, the mediation process can still be held if necessary.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help improve the region's EMS system and we look forward to working proactively with all the system stakeholders to continually enhance the service available to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James H Klock".

Jim Klock
Board President

cc: Mayor Mark Johnsrud
Jeff Thompson, M.D.
Mr. Ron Paczkowski