



# Ambulance Service Area Plan Update

December 20, 2023



# Why is this necessary?



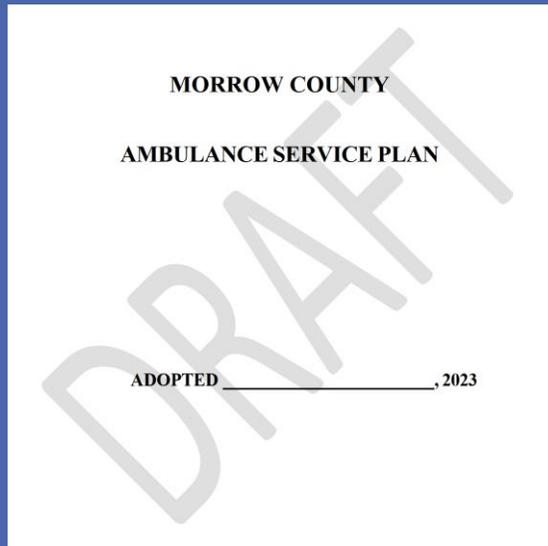
## The County is statutorily responsible to manage ambulance services

- ORS 682 outlines responsibility of counties and the development of ambulance service area plans (ASA)
- Since at least 1998, management over the ASA in Morrow County had been transferred to Morrow County Health District (MCHD). This included appointment of the EMS Advisory Committee, determination of providers, and review of performance. As MCHD was the sole provider of ambulance service in the County, this created a situation where the contractor is in control of the contract.

# What is being done?

While using the previous ASA as a template, the draft ASA includes updates in language and process to reflect the following changes:

- Re-establish the County as the authority over ASA
- Establishes an independent EMS Advisory Committee to review the services and provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners
- Establish three (3) ambulance services areas within the County to provide the option of multiple ambulance providers if appropriate
- Updates technical requirements to refer to OHA & ORS standards rather than specific details that may become outdated



# Differences in the roles for the EMS Advisory Committee

## Historic

- Appointed by MCHD Board
- Heavy representation of MCHD personnel (8 of 10 positions)
- Used to provide peer-review and case-by-case performance review
- Review overall performance of ambulance services

## Proposed

- Appointed by Board of Commissioners
- Review overall performance of ambulance services
- Reconcile system performance issues
- Hear and reconcile issues between providers
- Consider requests for new providers
- Review ASA every 5 years

# Where are we at in the process?



## Anticipated Process

- Internal development of draft
- Input on draft from parties previously interested in providing ambulance services
- ***Update and initial draft review by OHA***
- Final updates, feedback, OHA final review
- Public hearing and adoption/certification of ASA by Board of Commission
- Advertise/post for ambulance providers
- Designation of initial ambulance provider(s)

# Options for determining initial providers

## Board of Commission makes determination

### PRO:

- Follows statutory guidelines
- Quickest solution

### CON:

- Lack of expertise
- Overly exposes EMS services to a potential political decision

## New EMS Advisory Committee recommends

### PRO:

- Follows ASA

### CON:

- Committee would not be fully formed without provider representatives
- Potential conflict in having interested providers on committee

## Ad-Hoc Committee recommendation

### PRO:

- Would rely on industry/public experts to review initial proposals

### CON:

- Not currently outlined in ASA
- Determination of committee could be seen as politically slanted

# MCHD Notice Consideration

## DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY AND BY MAIL

To the Morrow County EMS Director and Board of Commissioners

This letter serves as 90 days' FORMAL WRITTEN NOTICE, regarding the District's decision to discontinue ambulance service in Morrow County under the current proposed draft ASA Plan prepared by Morrow County.

Since September, we have attempted to engage the County in resolving this dispute. Most importantly, resolving this issue is urgent due to the needs of Morrow County on countless occasions. Additionally, as was

Original consideration was to work with MCHD to provide continuing ambulance services during implementation of the new ASA. With the 90-day notice to discontinue service issued on December 13, 2023, Morrow County will need to have an alternate in place by Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The following options will be explored to ensure continuation of services after that date:

- Continued discussion with MCHD for services
- New providers assume ambulance services
- Interim operations through agreements with neighboring providers
- Interim operations under County management
- A combination of the above options

Questions?