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PRESS RELEASE

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LEADERS MEET TO RESOLVE EMS ISSUES

Almost a year ago, Marion County Board of Supervisors was approached by representatives of the EMS community to request the formation of a committee that would develop recommendations for board consideration related to the essential services law passed by the Iowa legislature in 2023.

This group reviewed various proposals to address the operational and financial gaps currently present in our ambulance service system. The group was unable to arrive at a consensus proposal to present to the board of supervisors. With that process at a standstill, members of the Board of Supervisors, local hospitals and cities have met as a separate group to continue the discussion around the future of ambulance services in Marion County.

The approach taken in these meetings has been slightly different from the initial group. This group of Marion County decision makers meet to discuss the financial and operational concerns of the EMS system. It is agreed that short term solutions are needed, as well as a long-term plan to build a system that will be financially and operationally sustainable well into the future. Those who have attended include Mark Raymie (Marion County Board of Supervisors/Board of Health), Bob Kroese (CEO, PRHC), Stephen Barnes DO (PRHC Emergency Department), Mike Nardini (City of Pella Administrator), Don DeWaard (City of Pella Mayor), Kevin Kincaid (CEO Knoxville Hospital & Clinics), staffed by Marion County Public Health Department Kim Dorn, Linsey Spoelstra, and Christina Van Vark. It is anticipated that Dr. Logan Miller (KHC Emergency Department) and City of Knoxville Mayor Brian Hatch and Heather Ussery will join the effort.

The new approach will be grounded in data collection, evaluation, and planning directed by elected leaders, those with responsibility for financial management of tax dollars, and those ultimately responsible for emergency care, our hospitals.