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Medical Services**
50 Years of Serving Others

December 9, 2008

Warren Darby
Chair, CNY REMSCO
Jefferson Tower, Suite LL1
50 Presidential Plaza
Syracuse, NY 13202

Dear Warren,

At the last Regional Council meeting Lon Fricano requested to meet with me, Troy Hogue, and Chris Bitner to discuss NAVAC's CON application (NOVA was not present at this discussion) as part of the review by the review and comment committee. He advised Chris Bitner that the CON application was not going to pass the REMSCO because there was no need as evidenced by the letters and materials submitted by NAVAC. He asked Mr. Bitner if NAVAC would be willing to drop or amend its CON expansion request if Rural/Metro were willing to "cede" its territory in the Towns of Salina and Cicero. Mr. Bitner explained to him the expansion request also involved territory served by NOVA and that he could not address such a request within the confines of the review and comment committee meeting.

As a follow up to this discussion I want to reiterate that need is being met just as it was prior to the territory changes earlier this year. However, I do recognize that there is also the issue that NAVAC has been serving this territory for the last three decades and it wasn't until just recently that their ability to serve it was challenged. There are three separate areas in question – part of the Town of Clay now being served by NOVA, a small part within the Hinsdale and Mattydale fire districts, and a small portion on the north side of East Taft Road in Cicero. The latter two areas were the ones discussed in the review and comment committee meeting.

NOVA functions as the primary provider for the area within the Town of Clay while Rural/Metro continues to provide mutual aid as we did for NAVAC prior to the territory changes. NAVAC still functions as the primary provider for the two territories discussed in the review and comment committee meeting. Rural/Metro is currently the only licensed provider for these two areas although NAVAC has provided continuous service to these areas for many decades. There really is nothing for Rural/Metro to "cede" as NAVAC has been the provider for more than thirty years and is still providing service pending the outcome of this application. It really boils down to Rural/Metro being put in a position of either taking this territory over as the licensed provider or supporting an expansion for these two areas to allow NAVAC to continue serving as they have been.

The issue of Mattydale/Hinsdale lies in the fact that a very small part (eight streets) of the Mattydale and Hinsdale fire districts fall outside of the North Syracuse school district boundaries but remain in the fire districts that are otherwise served by NAVAC. Given that NAVAC provides service to nearly 100% of these two fire districts under their existing CON, I can understand the rationale behind NAVAC's request for an expansion for the area within these two fire districts for the purposes of continuity of service.



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Yes, Rural/Metro has the capacity to meet this need should the expansion not be granted and will do so accordingly. As an organization that is licensed for the entire county I want to make sure we balance what's right under Article 30 with what makes sense for the twenty-two ambulance organizations that make up the EMS system in Onondaga County. In this case, NAVAC is neither a new entrant seeking a CON nor an existing agency seeking an expansion for territory they are not currently serving. In regards to Mattydale and Hinsdale, NAVAC is seeking an expansion for territory they have been operationally serving for a long period of time. The problem is that they are not duly licensed for this small area and are currently in violation of Article 30. This is similar to the WAVES expansion approved by the REMSCO for an area within the Town of Camillus that was exclusively served by WAVES but fell under the CON of GBAC.

The system in the Mattydale and Hinsdale fire districts works well and has worked well for thirty years. I do not think it appropriate to disrupt that and, as such, support NAVAC's expansion request for the eight streets within these two fire districts.

Regarding the East Taft Road area, NAVAC is the closer agency and has been responding to this area for more than three decades. The area in question is very small (a dozen or so residences in addition to unoccupied swamp land) and it makes sense to me to support NAVAC's expansion for this territory. Again, it is nearly identical to the WAVES-GBAC issue from a couple of years ago.

Because of the discussion within the review and comment committee on November 20, I want to be clear that Rural/Metro's support for a NAVAC expansion for areas within the Mattydale/Hinsdale fire districts and the northern part of East Taft Road is not "ceding" territory. Rural/Metro has the capacity to fulfill the need. This is area that has been served by NAVAC continuously for the last thirty years (if not longer) as part of their service to the fire districts and fire departments they serve. Rural/Metro's support merely keeps what has been in place for thirty years in these two areas in place today without unnecessary operational change to the EMS system.

In regards to the territory in question within the Town of Clay, I will refer back to my letter from October 16, 2008 since NOVA was not present to represent its side during our meeting with the review and comment committee.

Sincerely



Michael Addario
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