



**MOORE COUNTY
HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

224 East 2nd Street • Dumas, Texas 79029
(806) 935-7171 • (888) 958-7171 • FAX (806) 935-6578

January 5, 2012

Ron Winegardner
P.O. Box 922
Sunray, Texas 79086

Dear Mr. Winegardner:

This letter is in response to your letter dated January 4, 2012.

Issue 1 and 2) Yes, I recall our discussion regarding transcription services. This letter's response is consistent with what I have told you before. MCHD has made the decision to outsource our transcription needs based on a number of operational factors. We remain satisfied with our current service provider.

Issue 3) MCHD's Community Health Fair is a free public service. Before labs are drawn, consent is obtained from the patient and the patient is asked to identify their local physician and if they desire to have their lab results provided to that physician. It is not a technician's responsibility to refer a patient to a physician. Again, this is a free service and it is the patient's responsibility to follow-up with their physician if there is an abnormal result. This is specifically covered in the consent.

Issue 4, 5 and 8) Admittedly, due to the limited number of primary care physicians in our community, access can be a problem. MCHD is working to recruit new doctors to town but this will take time. Currently, we are recruiting a number of different specialties, including Family Practice and Internal Medicine. That being said, our records indicate that in October, given your inability to find a local doctor, MCHD's Indigent Care program agreed to pay for your care in Amarillo. Unfortunately, according to your letter, it appears that your care there has been discontinued. As always, MCHD's Program is willing to help you find a local physician, but we cannot guarantee our success. MCHD does not have the ability to require private physicians to accept patients.

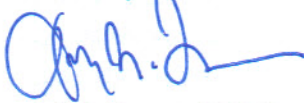
Issue 6) Emergency Department physicians are free to exercise their independent medical judgment. Given that Dr. Sherwood had already run a diagnostic HA1c earlier in the month and that Dr. Niziol had access to that lab's result, presumably Dr. Niziol did not see the medical efficacy of repeating the test. Still, he refilled your medications, which appears to be what you needed at the time. **Issue 7)** Dr. Niziol is correct. MCHD does not have a community weight loss program.

Issue 9) MCHD does not see the establishment of a Community Health Clinic as a viable solution to the access to care issue. Rather, we believe the best strategy is to recruit new doctors to our community and retain the quality physicians we currently have.

Issue 10) MCHD is looking into the medication pricing issue at The Pillbox. Obviously, we have no desire to spend more for indigent medications than is absolutely necessary. Until recently, only local, privately owned pharmacies have expressed any interest in working with MCHD's Indigent Program. A small pharmacy does not have the buying power of larger, corporate pharmacies such as Wal-Mart. Thus, the prices that they can offer to their customers may be higher. However, for whatever reason (perhaps due to new corporate competition), Wal-Mart has recently expressed a willingness to consider entering into a contract with MCHD. We are working with Wal-Mart's corporate structure in hopes of obtaining a contract.

If you would like to visit with our Board, our next meeting is on Wednesday, January 25 at 1:00 PM in the MCHD Boardroom, 224 East Second Street. Time for your presentation may be limited at the Chairman's discretion.

Sincerely,



Jeff R. Turner, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer