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QUALITY EMERGENCY CARE SINCE 1973

Kevin G. Munjal, MD, MPH
Founder, NY Mobile Integrated Healthcare Association (NYMIHA)
c/o Mount Sinai Medical Center
One Gustave Levy Place, Box 1620
New York, NY 10029

Dear Dr. Munjal,

Our organization/institution, New Paltz Rescue Squad Inc, officially endorses and supports the efforts of the New York Mobile Integrated Healthcare Association (formerly NY Community Paramedicine Task Force). Specifically, we support the Association's model of improved out-of-hospital care including all efforts to make emergency medical services (EMS) more patient-centered and adaptive to changes in the healthcare system. We also endorse efforts to make out-of-hospital care more integrated into the continuum of healthcare delivery and to integrate EMS into the public health infrastructure.

We are a combined paid/volunteer non-profit organization that has served New Paltz for 40 years. Our service provides EMS to SUNY New Paltz serving approximately 8,000 students, a large assisted living facility a portion of the NYS Thruway as well as a diverse population of the town and village of New Paltz. We often provide service to patients who are in need of care but not necessarily immediate transport to the hospital. We come to know these patients by name and have become an integral part of their healthcare needs.

The current New York State Medicaid reimbursement policy does not allow EMS providers to deliver higher quality, patient-centered healthcare. Instead, it emphasizes transport. We support any effort by the NYMIHA to realign financial incentives for out-of-hospital care. We believe that changing New York State Medicaid reimbursement policy will enable providers of EMS to make a wide array of contributions to improving the public health while lowering costs.

We recognize and thank the NY Mobile Integrated Healthcare Association for initiating a statewide dialogue about the potential impact of improved out-of-hospital care. We encourage other organizations, hospital systems, public and private healthcare insurers, and government regulators to engage in this important discussion about the numerous social and financial benefits pre-hospital care can have throughout the state.

Sincerely

Jason Conway

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