



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

April 29, 2015

15-00394

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

RE: Mobile Integrated Health Care program in support of area Health Care Systems

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council,

The Racine Fire Department in conjunction with Racine Firefighters Local 321 is requesting permission to implement a pilot or trial program that would offer integrated health care in the community. The purpose of the program is to assist with the prevention of patient re-admission to hospitals following hospital stays and to reduce transports of patients who tend to utilize the rescue squads on an abnormally high and frequent basis.

The program, in its pilot phase, will consist of visiting hospital patients who are discharged to home after a medical intervention. Firefighters or Emergency Medical Technicians will do a quick visual assessment of the patient's home along with an environmental assessment. They will be checking for cleanliness, smoke detectors, safety issues, and trip hazards within the home.

Next the Firefighters or Emergency Medical Technicians will discuss the hospital discharge instructions and paperwork with the patient. There would be a review of prescribed medicines the patient may be required to take and vital signs will be taken. Emphasis will be placed on how the patient needs to be compliant with their medicines during their at home recovery.

Finally Firefighters or Emergency Medical Technicians will also review the availability of other potential services the patient may need to call upon such as the DART transportation bus, and if appropriate provide a list of services available in the community to assist patients at home.

The program is completely voluntary for the patients. The hospitals will work with the patients to identify those who would most benefit from the program. If the patient desires the home visit under the integrated health care initiative a follow up visit would occur within 48 hours of the patient's discharge to home.

This program is similar to several other initiatives around the country in support of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In this area West Allis Fire Department, Milwaukee Fire Department and the Minneapolis Fire Departments are currently running pilot programs.



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

Working with the hospitals and our EMS billing agency the fire department will work to identify individuals who utilize the rescue squads on an abnormally high and frequent basis. Working with these individuals we will be conducting ongoing education on what constitutes an emergency, and also discuss potential alternative transportation means for non-emergency, non-life threatening medical needs.

During the pilot program specific statistical information will be gathered and analyzed. We anticipate the pilot program phase will last no more than six months.

The Fire Department will be working with Wheaton Franciscan All Saints Hospital and Aurora Hospitals initially. Continuation of the program after the pilot phase will require identifying a sustainable funding source and working collaboratively with the hospitals and IAFF Local 321 on the implementation of the program full time.

The Fire Department Division Chief of Emergency Medical Services will oversee the Mobile Integrated Health Care program.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief