



Public Statement Regarding Actions Taken at August 28, 2023 Board Meeting

As you may be aware, on August 10, 2023, Michael Courtney, Facility Manager for the Westside Community Health Care District (the “District”) was arrested by the Newman Police Department on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. The incident was publicized in local media outlets and prompted inquiries from members of the public regarding the District’s response. At the District’s regularly scheduled meeting on August 28, 2023, the Board of Directors (the “Board”) was briefed on the matter by the District’s General Counsel. Following the briefing, the Board directed staff to commence an investigation regarding Mr. Courtney’s fitness to continue in his role as Facility Manager, to schedule a special meeting following the investigation’s completion to determine the appropriate next steps based on its findings, and to issue a public statement providing relevant context and details concerning the District’s response.

At the outset, it must be stated that the Board is deeply concerned about this situation. As a provider of emergency medical services, lives depend on the District’s work. Consequently, the Board not only expects staff, and in particular management, to exhibit superior competence, professionalism, and judgment, but also, is committed to taking appropriate action to address any situation that interferes with the District’s ability to provide life-saving emergency medical treatment and transport to the public.

The Board has authorized the General Counsel’s law firm, Wanger Jones Helsley PC, to commence an investigation regarding Mr. Courtney’s fitness to continue serving as the District’s Facility Manager. To protect the investigator’s independence and impartiality, the investigating attorney will report directly to the Board and the District’s General Counsel will be screened from all investigatory work. Following the investigation’s conclusion, the investigating attorney will present her findings to the Board at a special meeting.

The special meeting will be held on September 15, 2023. While the Board recognizes that the situation is serious, additional time is needed to complete a thorough investigation into the relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the incident, to evaluate its impact on the District’s operations, and to determine how to minimize any potential disruption to District operations in the event further action is necessary.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. All questions should be directed to the District’s General Counsel via email at ncardella@wjhattorneys.com or via telephone at (559) 233-4800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Brazil".

President Brazil