

## Memorandum of Understanding

### Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into and between the Central Falls Office on Health, the Central Falls Fire Department, and Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Inc. The purpose of this MOU is to establish mobile integrated healthcare (MIH) in Central Falls, RI. This will allow EMS to provide community based health care services, within the scope of practice for the EMS provider. This will increase the availability of primary care; a need documented by the October 2013 Community Health Assessment, as well as decrease emergency room usage as appropriate.

### Background

The Central Falls Mobile Integrated Healthcare Unit seeks to close a specific gap in the city's healthcare system: delivering primary care services directly to Central Falls residents who need these services but, who for various reasons, cannot get to the PCP office and are ineligible for home-care.

Traditionally, MIH and community paramedicine have been promoted in rural areas where access to primary care may be limited by factors such as geographic distance and hazardous weather, as well as a scarcity of providers. These are not problems in Central Falls, which is urban, has a total area of 1.2 miles, has a growing primary care practice and urgent care within city limits, and features relatively close access to an ER in a neighboring city (Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, RI).

However, the fundamentals of MIH apply to Central Falls, because there are gaps in the city's healthcare system and patients are falling through the cracks. The goal of the Central Falls MIH unit is not to serve any and all residents, nor is it to displace existing health services. Instead, it is to focus on a select population who meet the state criteria for MIH and who have health needs which the unit has the potential to help. Additionally, an MIH unit in Central Falls could serve a valuable public health function for other initiatives.

### Roles and Responsibilities

1. The Central Falls Fire Department will be responsible for quality management.
2. The Central Falls Fire Department is responsible for treating and transporting the patients on-site, writing the visit report, and maintaining the equipment.
3. The Primary Care Clinicians at Blackstone Valley Community Health Care will discuss the treatment plan with EMS and provide care upon arrival at Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Urgent Care or one of the Primary Care Sites.
4. The patient is responsible for accepting the services offered by the MIH.

## Implementation

The Central Falls Mobile Integrated Health Unit can be utilized by Central Falls residents who, unless referred by the PCP, are otherwise ineligible for home health care. A PCP may refer a patient to the MIH unit if the patient requires urgent assessment based on a phone assessment, if the patient does not have home health care and has needs that can be addressed in the community by the MIH unit, or the patient needs follow-up care that can be provided by the MIH unit. EMS may refer a patient to the MIH unit upon conferring with the PCP or case manager and ensuring the patient does not have home health services. The discharging emergency room physician, a home health provider rendering the patient ineligible for services, and the Rhode Island Department of Health are also able to refer a patient.

It is anticipated that most patient interactions will fall into one of three categories: evaluation, education, and safety. Upon assessment, the EMT will treat the patient in the field, under the direction of the PCP, transport the patient to a non-hospital facility, or transport the patient to the emergency room.

## Records and Reports

1. Central Falls Office on Health will collect and analyze the data needed to determine the efficacy of the MIH.
2. EMS will keep all records of services performed on-site and in the ambulance.
3. Blackstone Valley Community Health Care will keep a record of all treatment performed there, as well as the EMS summary report.

## Maintenance

The Central Falls Fire Department will be responsible for the maintenance of equipment and EMT training. Blackstone Valley Community Health Care will provide medical direction.

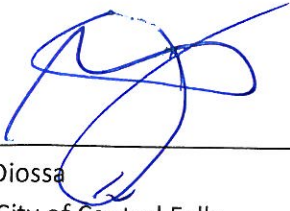
## Updates

Central Falls Neighborhood Health Station, the Central Falls Office on Health and the Central Falls Fire Department have the authority to update the MOU as necessary, in collaboration with all parties and subject to consensus by participating authorities. Any updates or changes will require the signature of each participating entity. Updates may be made on an addendum page with an attached new signature page verifying the understanding of changes.

## Termination

This MOU may be terminated by any party upon issuance of written notice to each other party, no less than 30 days before the proposed termination date. The 30 day notice may be waived upon mutual written consent of all parties.

Signatures

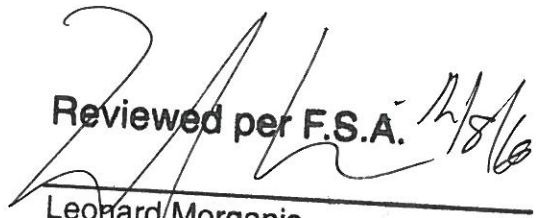


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James Diossa  
Mayor City of Central Falls

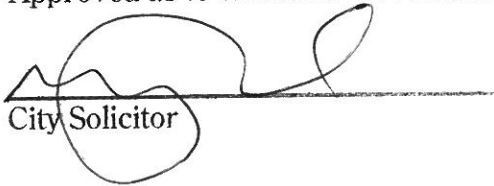
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Ray Lavoie  
Chief Executive Officer  
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Inc.



**Reviewed per F.S.A.** 2/8/16  
Leonard Morganis  
Administration & Finance Officer

Approved as to form and correctness



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City Solicitor