



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Office of the County Manager

May 26, 2011

Mr. Michael Tarwater
Chief Executive Officer
Carolinas Healthcare System
P.O. Box 32861
Charlotte, NC 28232-2861

Dear Mike:

In anticipation of our meeting this afternoon, I would like to address an outstanding issue involving the May 20th letter from your General Counsel Keith Smith to County Attorney Marvin Bethune. In his letter Mr. Smith requests that all future communications from Mecklenburg County related to services provided to Mecklenburg County by Carolinas HealthCare System under the Joint Undertaking Agreement be directed to him. I take strong issue with this request.

I have instructed my staff not to comply with this request and to direct information requests to the most appropriate person on your staff. If County requests for information must be funneled through your attorney at your end, it is of no concern to the County, provided receipt of the requested information is not delayed.

I also want to be clear that General Manager Michelle Lancaster is the County employee responsible for the administration of the Joint Undertaking Agreement. I expect her to be treated as such, and I expect her requests for information under the contract to be promptly fulfilled. Additionally, Dena Diorio, Mecklenburg County Finance Director, is responsible for receiving and analyzing financial information related to the agreement, and I also expect her requests to be promptly fulfilled.

The Joint Undertaking Agreement currently involves approximately \$60 million in taxpayer funds, and Mecklenburg County intends to administer its provisions, and the provisions of all contracts, diligently. With the County's renewed focus on compliance issues, all County contractors should expect a high level of scrutiny by County staff.

The recent requests for information are required under the provisions of the Joint Undertaking Agreement, and are not indicative of County staff attempting to create difficulties for Carolinas HealthCare System. Many of the recent requests were at the suggestion of a consultant engaged by

PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS

600 East Fourth Street • Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-2835 • (704) 336-2472 Fax (704) 336-5887
www.MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

the County to advise County staff on the mental health waiver process.

Over the years there have been chronic issues with CHS's providing information to Mecklenburg County under this agreement. Failure to provide certain information as required under the agreement can jeopardize State funding. I hope these issues are in the past.

For your information, I have attached a copy of Mr. Smith's letter to Mr. Bethune, and a copy of Ms. Diorio's letter to Mr. Gombar requesting certain information, which is referenced in Mr. Smith's letter. Additionally I have attached an April 27th letter from Carlos Hernandez to Laura Thomas requesting information under the contract. The information requested has not been provided..

Kind regards,

Harry L. Jones, Sr.
County Manager