

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor



Dan Tangherlini
Office of the City Administrator

October 31, 2007

Name
President/CEO
Hospital
Address
Washington, D.C.

Dear CEO:

As you may know, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's Task Force on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) recently issued its Report and Recommendations on how to improve the delivery of EMS in the District of Columbia (copy attached). I write to ask for your assistance with a Task Force recommendation that presents us with an opportunity to work together to address long-standing issues surrounding EMS delivery in the District.

Recommendation 5 of the Task Force is to "reduce misuse of EMS and delays in patient transfers." A central focus of this recommendation is the need to improve information exchange and patient flow between the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) and the District's health care providers. To that end, the Task Force also recommended the creation of a working group chaired by myself and comprised of the CEOs of District hospitals, the FEMS Medical Director and the Director of the Department of Health, to "meet quarterly to address and develop standards for drop times, diversion and closure, and to improve procedures for tracking patient outcomes."

I would appreciate your attendance at the first meeting of the working group on Wednesday, November 14 at 9 a.m. in Room 507 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

The broader purpose of the group is to develop and maintain a dialogue regarding the challenges facing the District's emergency health care system and strategies to help both the public and private sectors manage that system more effectively. Specific topics for discussion will include but not be limited to: emergency department overcrowding, closure and diversion mitigation strategies, patient throughput strategies and patient data exchange mechanisms.

I look forward to a mutually beneficial dialogue as we all work toward a better emergency health system for the citizens and visitors of the nation's capital. Thank you in advance for your consideration and participation in this critical initiative. Please contact Amy Mauro of my staff at (202) 478-9184 or amy.mauro@dc.gov to confirm your attendance at the November 14 meeting, and to ask any questions you may have about the Task Force and the working group.

Sincerely,

Dan Tangherlini
City Administrator

cc: Chief Dennis Rubin, FEMS
Dr. Michael D. Williams, Medical Director, FEMS
Dr. Carlos Cano, Interim Director, Department of Health