

Nikiski Fire Service Area

Kenai Peninsula Borough
P.O. Box 8508
Nikiski, Alaska 99635



907-776-6401 - Station #1
907-283-8404 - Fax

Tuesday, October 05, 2021

Mayor Charlie Pierce
144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

RE: Nikiski Fire Department Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program

Dear Mayor Pierce,

As the Physician Medical Director for the Nikiski Fire Department, I wish to submit this letter of support for the implementation of a Mobile Integrated Health Program (MIH-CP) at Nikiski Fire Department. Given the recent rise of COVID-19 cases on the Kenai Peninsula and increased in hospitalizations, this program should provide significant benefit, not only the Nikiski Fire Service area, but the entire Kenai Peninsula Community by improving patient satisfaction and improving NFD readiness for other emergencies. By leveraging a proven national model of Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) utilizing community paramedics (CP), select patients will qualify for field triage, treatment and referral as well as post-discharge in-home monitoring and therapy.

The NFD MIH-CP program will allow Nikiski Fire Department to utilize community paramedics to help provide patient-centric care in which some conditions can be treated and monitored at home, without the need for ambulance transport as well as providing care that can facilitate safe, earlier discharge from the hospital for some patients by:

- Providing in-home preventive care to patients such as Covid-19 vaccinations and education
- Allowing for treatment in place and non-transport for certain stable patients in a shared-decision model
- Providing telephone and walk-in triage, advice or other assistance to non-urgent 911 callers and walk-ins; directing patients to destinations such as primary care, urgent care, and mental health or substance abuse treatment centers when appropriate and consistent with established protocols.
- Providing in-home care under my direction for administration of oxygen, the provision of such things as monoclonal antibodies and other FDA-approved therapies such as IV antibiotics for stable patients.

It is my understanding that Nikiski Fire Department will be working with the State of Alaska Office of EMS on an interim basis to provide funding for this MIH-CP program which should help alleviate any financial burden that this program may impose on Nikiski Fire Department or the Kenai Peninsula Borough. This program will operate under the aegis of the EMS Medical Director with established protocols and involved physician oversight to assure quality and competence.

A MIH-CP Program will be imperative to our community as we continue to deal with this crisis and seek to find solutions to navigating this pandemic effectively. The current crisis provides a

unique opportunity to allow NFD to establish an MIH program that will benefit the community long after the pandemic has been controlled. Thank you for your support and look forward to discussing this further to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Levy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael Levy, M.D. FAEMS, FACEP, FACP
Medical Director
Nikiski Fire Department
EMS Medical Director Kenai Peninsula Borough
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