



Sept 19, 2016

Good Afternoon, Members of the Task force, my name is Arvind Shaw, CEO of Generations Family Health Center and I am unable to attend but I wish to provide written testimony on behalf of the patients in the rural part of the state. Generations provides 22,500 patients with primary care medical, dental and behavioral services in Willimantic, Putnam, Danielson and Norwich.

This is an article which appeared in The Chronicle about a serious accident that had devastating results for two patients.

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Two injured in Windham motorcycle accident

WINDHAM — Two individuals riding a motorcycle were transported to Windham Community Memorial Hospital after an accident on Route 6 Tuesday evening.

North Windham Fire Department Chief Jeff Wrana said this morning the accident was reported at 6:22 p.m.

He said the accident happened at the sharp corner by the end of the highway.

According to a scanner report, the accident happened on Route 6 eastbound in the area of Route 195.

Wrana said a Life Star helicopter was requested, but was unavailable.

However, he said Windham Hospital paramedics said the helicopter was not needed.

Wrana said two people on the motorcycle, a female and male were transported by Willimantic firefighters to Windham Hospital.

The identities of the two individuals were unavailable from state police this morning.

The scanner report indicated the rider was "down with serious injuries."

Wrana deferred comment on the injuries to state police. That information was unavailable this morning.

This emergency transportation failure underscores the need for due diligence that should be required by the State before approving changes in hospital services due to consolidations. There were no emergency transportation needs assessments required to inform or support the decision, and there was no planning for the changes in volunteer ambulance systems that serve Windham Hospital. There were no population health needs assessments and impacts on rural healthcare that were considered in granting these changes. Had the CON granted an open process for stakeholder input these patient safety and transportation risks could have surfaced, mitigated, and the outcomes may have been very different for these two patients.

I am left with the conclusion that this lack of service could have been prevented had different points of view been heard.