

Dispute Timeline

City of Fosston, First Care Medical Services, and Essentia Community Hospitals and Clinics

November, 2009: Affiliation agreement signed

May 2022: City informed by Essentia administration that OB services would be diverted for 120 days

May 2022: Local taskforce formed to ensure OB would come back to Fosston

June 1, 2022: Essentia press release announcing 120-day diversion of labor and delivery, stating “planning is underway for restart of labor and delivery services on October 1, 2022.

October 1, 2022: Essentia corporate announces that goal has shifted to provider recruitment and announces new OB restart date of February 1, 2023

February 1, 2023: new restart date for mid-March announced

March 16, 2023: new requirement to hire an OB nurse manager announced. Qualified nurse manager is identified, but Essentia HR staff in Fargo misses two meetings with candidate

March 20, 2023: Resolution of Intent to Dispute the Discontinuation of OB Services at Essentia in the City of Fosston passed by Fosston City Council, unanimously.

April 13, 2023: Dr Vetter comes to Fosston stating commitment to restart OB in 2023 and affirms that restarting is not a financial issue

April 27, 2023: Local doctor asks for NRP training for staff within 30 days, but training was not delivered

May 15, 2023: memo from Essentia Health-West Market affirming commitment to resume OB services no later than December 31, 2023

May 25, 2023: Dr Vetter now says OB nurse manager is not needed for a restart; what is needed is a third doctor and a minimum of 100 babies delivered annually, along with another affirmation that it is not a financial issue

June 22, 2023: City leadership informs taskforce of its concern that Essentia corporate will not fulfill its promises

June 26, 2023: Resolution Disputing the Discontinuation of Core Services Under Affiliation Agreement Between the City of Fosston, ECHC, D/B/A Essentia Community Hospitals and Clinics, and First Care Medical Services, passed by Fosston City Council, unanimously.

July 10, 2023: Resolution Disputing the Discontinuation of Core Services Under Affiliation Agreement Between the City of Fosston, ECHC, D/B/A Essentia Community Hospitals and Clinics, and First Care Medical Services and Authorizing Commencement of Legal Action, passed by Fosston City Council, unanimously.

August 10, 2023: Dr. Herman informs city that a minimum of 200 babies need to be delivered in Fosston each year and that four doctors are needed to resume OB services in Fosston, along with another affirmation that it is not a financial issue