October 4, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

Across the country Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is short-staffed and under resourced, and Michigan’s rural EMS system is at a critical state. The attached document, “An Abstract of Challenges Facing Michigan’s Rural EMS Agencies”, sheds light on the multiple challenges which affect Michigan’s rural communities relative to access to quality and timely emergency medical services.

This document is the result of work by the Rural EMS Subcommittee of Michigan’s Emergency Medical Services Coordination Committee (EMSCC). In September of 2021 it was reviewed by the EMSCC and submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for distribution to stakeholders and concerned residents.

Please take a few moments to review this document to learn about the significant challenges of the rural EMS system in Michigan. If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please contact one of the following members of the Rural Subcommittee:

Gary Wadaga, Rural Subcommittee Chair/Director, Bay Ambulance

(906) 395-0127 or Garymw@chartermi.net

Leslie Hall, Executive Director, Michigan Rural EMS Network

(989) 272-3290 or info@mirems.org

Andrea Abbas, EMS Programs Manager, Michigan Center for Rural Health

(517) 355-7757 or Andrea.Abbas@affiliate.msu.edu

Nicole Babb, EMS Division, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

(517) 241-3025, option 5 or MDHHS-MichiganEMS@michigan.gov

 Thank you,