



# MORRISTOWN-HAMBLEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

March 1, 2010

Dear Dr. Vick:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2010.

Pursuant to the contract that was signed and executed between MHHS and Covenant Health, those involved in the negotiations are prohibited by law, from discussing the terms under consideration at this time. Therefore, a meeting with you to further discuss the Covenant option and/or the more recent unsolicited offer from Community Health Systems (CHS) is simply not possible at this time. Any information I would be able to share with you or your medical staff is already available to the public. This information has been recently addressed in the local news papers by our Board Chairman, Carl Storms.

It does merit mentioning, however, that there have already been numerous meetings and dialogue between members of the MHHS Board and our medical staff on this matter of expanding our not-for-profit health care mission since the Board began consideration of an affiliation back in October 2008. Last June 2009 the Board met with the full Medical Staff to discuss long-term affiliate partners, and medical staff members were asked to provide feedback and input to the Board. Meetings and leadership retreats prior to last June and since have also allowed for input from the medical staff as well.

I should also mention that while both for-profit and not-for-profit affiliate models have been deliberated, the Board has determined that the not-for-profit option has served MHHS and this community well, and that we should continue along that path. Our Board, made up of a group of dedicated citizens who are steadfastly committed to enhancing MHHS' not-for-profit mission in our community, is giving careful consideration to all aspects of the intended affiliation with Covenant Health. Rest assured this Board is doing what it deems best for the long term interests of our community's health and well being.

I appreciate your interest in the matter. Feel free to contact me with any further questions concerning this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DK" or similar initials, written over a horizontal line.

Dennis Klein, D.O.