

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: REHABILITATION CENTER OF ALLISON, IOWA, UNITYPOINT CLINIC FAMILY MEDICINE AT HUXLEY, f/k/a HUXLEY FAMILY PHYSICIANS, HANCOCK COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEMS, HELEN ADOLPHSON and CHARLOTTE SKALLERUP, CAROLYN FRAHM, and DOUGLAS PALS	DOCKET NOS. FCU-2012-0019, FCU-2013-0004, FCU-2013-0005, FCU-2013-0006, FCU-2013-0007, and FCU-2013-0009
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ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR SHORT EXTENSION

(Issued October 5, 2015)

On August 28, 2015, an order was issued requiring the parties involved in possible settlement discussions in each of the above dockets to file proposed settlement agreements, statements they are unable to reach a settlement, or requests for a short delay to finalize settlement agreements where it appears the additional delay would be productive.

On September 30, 2015, Qwest Communications Company, LLC, d/b/a CenturyLink QCC (CenturyLink), filed a status update stating there has been no progress or agreement reached on settlement proposals with the Office of Consumer Advocate (Consumer Advocate). On the same date, Windstream Iowa Communications, Inc. (Windstream) and Airus, Inc. (Airus), filed a statement regarding settlement discussions between Windstream, Airus, and the Consumer Advocate. Windstream and Airus reported on the settlement proposals and limited

discussions exchanged between themselves and the Consumer Advocate and stated there was no settlement with respect to Windstream and Airus.

On September 30, 2015, the Consumer Advocate filed a response and request for extension. The Consumer Advocate reported there have been productive discussions between Impact, Inc. (Impact), and the Consumer Advocate and a short extension to October 9, 2015, is needed to complete their discussions and determine whether agreement between them can be reached. The Consumer Advocate also stated its proposed solutions have not changed, but the settlement discussions have given the Consumer Advocate an opportunity to consolidate them from nine steps into four. The Consumer Advocate stated giving the parties a final briefing opportunity may be helpful to concluding the proceedings. On September 30, 2015, Impact filed a statement regarding the settlement discussions between the Consumer Advocate and Impact. Impact stated they are still actively engaged in settlement discussions and need a short extension of time. Impact joins in the Consumer Advocate's request for an extension to October 9, 2015, to complete settlement discussions.

The Consumer Advocate's and Impact's request for an extension of time until October 9, 2015, to complete their settlement discussions is reasonable and should be granted. The undersigned is not certain what the Consumer Advocate is requesting with regard to another briefing opportunity. If the Consumer Advocate wishes to file an additional brief providing an explanation of how the settlement discussions have given it the opportunity to consolidate its nine proposed solutions

into four, and what the four proposed solutions include, with the settlement information it files with Impact on October 9, 2015, that will be allowed. At this point in the proceedings, it does not appear that an additional round of briefing beyond that limited opportunity would be productive.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The Consumer Advocate's and Impact's request for an extension of time until October 9, 2015, to complete their settlement discussions is hereby granted. On or before October 9, 2015, the Consumer Advocate and Impact must file a proposed settlement agreement for approval or a statement that they are not able to reach a settlement agreement. If the Consumer Advocate wishes to file an additional brief regarding its four proposed solutions, the brief must be filed on or before October 9, 2015.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Amy L. Christensen
Amy L. Christensen
Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano
Executive Secretary, Designee

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 5th day of October 2015.