

**LCEMS POLICY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
February 8, 2023

**Members Present:**

Chief Barry Cousino  
Chief Mike Ramm  
Chief Brandon Loboschefski  
Chief Tony Parasiliti  
Chief Kevin Bernhard  
Chief Josh Hartbarger  
Dennis Cole – nonvoting member  
David Lindstrom, M.D. - nonvoting member

**Representing:**

Springfield Twp. Fire Dept (Zoom)  
Sylvania Twp. Fire Department  
Maumee Fire Department  
Jerusalem Twp Fire Department  
Monclova Twp Fire Department  
Whitehouse Fire Department  
LCEMS Director  
LCEMS Medical Director

**Absent:**

Mayor Michael Sefarian  
Trustee Robert Bethel  
Mayor Donald Atkinson  
Trustee John Jennewine  
Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz  
Chris Goliver, M.D.

City of Oregon, Mayor  
Springfield Twp. Trustee  
Village of Whitehouse, Mayor  
Sylvania Twp. Trustee  
City of Toledo  
Hospital Council of NW Ohio

**Attendees:**

Chief Doug Meyer  
Schuyler Beckwith  
Brian Byrd  
Stacey Mitchell  
Ralph Shearn  
Zak Reed  
Chief Tim Clapp  
Mark Mullins  
Martin Fuller  
Kirk Keane  
Tom Boggs, MD  
Jonathon Ziehr  
Jim Wolfe  
Alisa Roberts-Kober MD  
Nick Sauber, M.D.  
Tom Yunker  
Jean Butler  
Robert Deleon  
Amanda Aplin

Waterville Fire Department  
LCEMS  
City of Toledo  
RCOG Director  
RCOG  
Toledo Fire Department  
Toledo Fire Department  
Oregon Fire Department  
Whitehouse Fire / Life Flight  
Toledo Fire Department  
McLaren St Luke's  
Springfield Twp. Fire / LCEMS (Zoom)  
Oregon Fire (Zoom)  
ProMedica (Zoom)  
Mercy / Toledo Fire Med Director (Zoom)  
Washington Twp Fire Dept (Zoom)  
ProMedica Toledo (Zoom)  
Mercy (Zoom)  
ProMedica (Zoom)

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chief Cousino at 8:34am.

## **Minute Approval**

The meeting minutes from December were distributed for review. With no edits, Chief Hartbarger made a motion, Chief Bernhard second. All approve.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Paramedic Committee**

The draft minutes from January Paramedic Committee meeting were distributed for review. Chief Ramm reviewed the minutes. Will discuss scheduling meetings quarterly next time.

### **Medical Committee**

The draft minutes from Monday's Medical Committee meeting were distributed for review. Chief Cousino reviewed the minutes.

### **EMS System Modernization**

Dennis gave an update on conversations happening about the future of EMS. Matt Heyrman is drafting contract language to discuss. Each jurisdiction is collecting data. Chief Lobo said there are rumors that some departments have already claimed equipment. Dennis said nothing has been claimed. Intent is that anything the operating jurisdictions already have will stay there. Toledo Fire requested to have the County transfer the six ALS first responder lifepaks used by TFRD so that they could install modems and connectivity. EMS does not provide connectivity to those lifepaks. The Commissioners agreed to that to help with collection of data and turned those over through a resolution. We have not promised any equipment any specific jurisdiction. Dennis stated that Toledo Fire has been asking many questions on equipment. We have responded to their request for information but are not promising anything. Chief Parasiliti said he was supposed to be part of a department that was going to split off early; he's only had one conversation with Oregon so he is totally in dark.

It was asked who is championing conversation about regions? Dennis responded that the regions were based on the general operating jurisdiction coverage areas. The intent was to let the jurisdictions in the region get together and determine how best to provide EMS coverage for their area. The County would like to let chiefs and administrators talk and discuss how best to do that.

Matt Heyrman working on draft contract language. There is interest in seeing that soon to present to trustees? Dennis indicated that chiefs are continuing to discuss and asking deeper operation questions. They are starting to have conversations with RCOG and how this affects dispatch when every transport unit is ALS. Toledo Fire said Dennis has been very clear that non-operating jurisdictions can ask questions and talk about equipment needs. Spare equipment should be available to non-operating jurisdictions assuming they are going to provide ALS transport. Do we have to request it or is this going to be distributed equitably? Dennis

recommends this should be discussion within the regions. The region should submit a plan to the County identifying resource needs on how they plan to accomplish the mission. Chief Bernhard said that they were under the impression that all extra equipment would be distributed equitably, this sounds like that has changed. Sounds like spare equipment needs to be requested. Dennis said he is trying to express that in non-operating jurisdictions, there may be desire to cover ALS transport capability, Dennis wants to make sure we assist needs of those non-operating jurisdictions if they are providing ALS transport. Chief Meyer asking if he needs to put together a list to make sure they can cover their new requirements. It was reinforced that requests are limited to existing spare resources. Chief Cousino thinks the county should put together some kind of questionnaire to send out to departments. Advocate that any transfers be discussed at these meetings and maybe should meet more frequently.

Dr. Boggs asked that the EMS medical directors be included in the conversation. Is this a decision that Lucas County has made? As we go to this potentially fragmented system, he is worried about patient care. He thinks separating us into six regions is bad for patient care. Medical Directors need to be part of this conversation. Chief Clapp would like the regional medical directors to continue to meet and coordinate protocols and CE plans together. Chief Ramm apologizes that they have not been included. We do not want a fragmented system. The intent is to improve patient care. Dr. Lindstrom said that if CE were not handled countywide there would be a big problem. He thinks the protocols will continue to migrate apart if we go this direction. HB 509 discussion and how that will affect future CE. Chief Clapp says they are trying to look out for everybody.

Dennis said they did not start with medical directors because this was a continuing discussion asked by the fire chiefs to review the EMS system. The discussion was very broad going back and forth in multiple directions. Discussion started with chiefs first, individually and as a group. Once we had a potential direction, it was taken to some of the administrators with their Chiefs. The next step is drafting contract language to move conversation to elected officials. Dr. Roberts said she first heard about this from a line firefighter saying it was a done deal, understands concern coming from Medical Directors. Often hear that there is physicians at hospitals that do not know the protocols of different jurisdictions. Now talking about different protocols in each region may cause confusion in the hospitals.

Chief Cousino reiterates that this has a lot of momentum but no decisions are made. Protocols are different in each jurisdiction now. Jurisdictions believe they can reduce protocol confusion for the medics and enhance patient care. Chiefs in Western Lucas County met in December and have another meeting today to see how they can work together and improve EMS service. Chief Lobo said there was a task force in 2019 that identified three subjects: training, QI and Annex. Those buckets were held up and never went anywhere because of COVID then the RCOG happened, this change has come around very quickly.

Brian Byrd asked about the content of the draft contract. Operations and money? Dennis responded that Matt Heyrman is drafting the contract language. The objective is to promote jurisdictions responds as ALS capable transport units. The county is going to provide six regions an amount of money to provide BLS/ALS capable transport vehicles arriving on-scene. The County would like the region to figure out how best to provide EMS patient care to its residents.

The regional concept came out of conversations with Chiefs. Marty Fuller believes the system is more than who shows up in a truck. Concerned about CE and protocol. If those important parts of the system are dissolved, he thinks we are in trouble. Dennis said the current system is not as good as some believe. It is not accomplishing what it needs to accomplish anymore. Dr. Lindstrom says it is unfair to say it is not good. This may create a tiered education system unless Toledo pours a whole lot more resources into providing for everyone. Dennis says the current system paramedics are employees of their jurisdiction not EMS. The medics will be more accountable working for their departments than EMS.

Chief Parasiliti asked that if the consensus is a done deal? This was not driven by the county and no decision has been made. Chief Parasiliti asked who is championing this. Dennis reiterated the proposal evolved out of conversations with the chiefs. Has anything stemmed out of county committees about direction of education? Are the current CEs possibly be available until the end of the year? Chief Cousino said no changes would occur until 2024. Dr. Roberts asked if we could provide better care by improving CE. Dr. Boggs said that has to be part of the conversation.

### **CE Update**

Dennis gave update on CE. ACLS was moved from September to May. After will provide 8 hours of remote CE. Eight classes of 1 hour each. Mostly EMS1 that paramedics need to complete before end of September. That will give everyone the hours they need for this year. Hopefully, fire chiefs will be lobbying on effect of HB 509. Chief Ramm said state fire chiefs association voted that down

### **EMS Billing Update**

Vicki gave a billing update. Jan \$353,195.51. Total revenue for 2022 3,914,839.45. Up from last year. What is the total amount for the reserve fund? Vick would have to check but thinks it is about \$3,000,000.

### **Lights and Sirens**

Dennis said we would defer that conversation until after it is discussed at fire chiefs meeting.

### **EMS Microwave Phones/Hospital notification**

Dennis gave update that microwave system equipment is obsolete and no longer supportable. Meeting with P&R this morning to review. The microwave system is no longer necessary with the 800MHz radios replacing the UHF Med Channels. We still have approximately five agencies using UHF Med channels per shift. Will be looking to establish an end date to no longer support UHF and will need the hospitals to provide dedicated phone numbers to use in-lieu of microwave phones. Will give update to this group once we know more.

### **Open Discussion**

Hoping to move Policy Board and Medical Committee meeting to the same day. Move both meetings to Mondays? Moving Policy Board meeting to Monday April 10, 2023 at 10am. Chief Ramm made a motion to move both to Monday, 8:30 am for Medical Committee and 10:00 am

for EMS Policy Board. Chief Hartbarger second. All approve. Schuyler will send out notification.

### **Adjournment**

Chief Hartbarger motioned to adjourn Chief Ramm second at 9:53am. All approve. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled on April 10, 2023 at 10:00 am.