

LCEMS POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2023

Members Present:

Chief Barry Cousino
Chief Mike Ramm
Chief Allison Armstrong
Chief Clayton O'Brien
Chief Tony Parasiliti
Chief Josh Hartbarger
Dennis Cole – nonvoting member
David Lindstrom, M.D. - nonvoting member
Matthew Heyrman
Brian Byrd

Representing:

Springfield Twp. Fire Department
Sylvania Twp. Fire Department
Toledo Fire Department
Oregon Fire Department
Jerusalem Twp Fire Department
Whitehouse Fire Department
LCEMS Director
LCEMS Medical Director
Lucas County Deputy Administrator
City of Toledo Safety Director

Absent:

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

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

Attendees:

Chief Matthew Homik
Chief Doug Meyer
Schuyler Beckwith
Vicki Schmidt
Don Murray
Stacey Mitchell
Ralph Shearn
Zak Reed
Mark Briggs
Martin Fuller
Kirk Keane
Tom Boggs, MD
Jonathon Ziehr
Derek Francis
Chris Nye
Sean Powers
Evan Seamons
Alisa Roberts-Kober, M.D.

Monclova Twp Fire Department
Waterville Fire Department
LCEMS
LCEMS
Jerusalem Twp Fire Department
RCOG Director
RCOG
Toledo Fire Department
LCEMS CE
Whitehouse Fire / Life Flight
Toledo Fire Department
McLaren St Luke's (Zoom)
Springfield Twp. Fire / LCEMS (Zoom)
(Zoom)
(Zoom)
(Zoom)
Mercy St Vincent Resident (Zoom)
ProMedica (Zoom)

Stephen Zohn, M.D.
Tom Yunker
Tim Scott, D.O.
Robert Deleon
Phil Moline
Matt Tabb
Michael Eck
Joe Cira
Craig Koperski
Kristie Gallagher
Jason Francis
Tammy Ohrt
Aiden Yoon
Greg Szumigala

(Zoom)
Washington Twp Fire Dept (Zoom)
(Zoom)
Mercy (Zoom)
Toledo Fire Department / Local 92
Toledo Fire Department / Local 92
Toledo Fire Department / Local 92
Toledo Fire Department / Local 92
LCEMS / Sylvania Fire Department
ProMedica Metro EDs
Whitehouse Fire Department
Toledo Fire Department
LCEMS CE / Springfield Twp Fire Dept.
Toledo Fire Department

Call to Order

Chief Cousino called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

Minute Approval

The meeting minutes from February 8 were distributed for review. Chief Ramm made a motion to approve. Chief Armstrong second. All approved. Chief Cousino gave a quick update about the purpose of the Policy Board. Chief Cousino asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Committee Reports

Paramedic Committee

The draft minutes from March Paramedic Committee meeting were distributed for review. Chief Ramm reviewed the minutes.

Medical Committee

The draft minutes from February's Medical Committee meeting were distributed for review. Chief Cousino discussed the Medical Committee meeting this morning. Draft minutes will be distributed before the next meeting.

EMS System Modernization

Chief Cousino discussed the draft amendment to the current contract allowing one EMT and one Paramedic to operate the Life Squad. Matt Heyrman discussed how this topic came up in response to a request from the Policy Board to assist Whitehouse Fire who had a Paramedic retire. They did not want to hire a new Paramedic just through the end of 2023. Term would start this week or next, if this board recommends it goes to the Commissioners. Once they vote it would go to jurisdictions for signature. Could backdate it to this week. It would not prohibit any modifications or extensions. Matt reviewed the amendment. Chief Homik said Chief Bernhard asked him to address the advanced EMT not covered in the amendment. Should change amendment to include EMT basic, EMT A, EMT I... Any level of EMT would qualify. Matt

said he would update section to reflect those clarifications. Chief Parasiliti asked if Lucas County paramedics are still working under Dr. Lindstrom? Yes, that is correct. EMT would work under appropriate BLS medical director for that department. Craig discussed his concerns about board of pharmacy issues, all of those folks will have to function under Dr. Lindstrom if working the life squad. We do not have procedures and protocols to reflect these changes. Our narcotic policy needs to be completely rewritten. He says we are talking about turning over access to our ambulances to someone who may not be trained on our life squad.

Chief Cousino said he would not be making any changes; but this amendment gives other jurisdictions who need to the flexibility to make a change. Dr. Lindstrom said the intent is to make sure that BLS function is the jurisdictions liability and responsibility. Those jurisdiction's that need to make this change would soon have been preparing for it. Chief Hartbarger said they have plans in place; this would be a stopgap. Helps us ensure we do not have to be off the board because of staffing issues. Chief O'Brien said they do not anticipate making these changes right away; Oregon will keep things as they are. Those EMT's would have to be on county medical license and we can have more discussions about how to make sure those folks are trained. Craig says putting together; a Board of Medical Directors would help solve that problem. Craig says this amendment opens the door that is a slippery slope. He does not think we have the medics in the right spot for this. He thinks we are reducing our service level by doing this. Aiden said he agrees with Craig, his experience with the system in Columbus that runs this way changes what our expectations should be. He says the communication to the hospitals will change drastically. Dr. Lindstrom says it does put a lot more responsibility on one paramedic with sicker patients.

Chief Cousino asked if this can be done just for Whitehouse and then we can address it with other jurisdictions. Matt said they can take it back and have discussion. This was presented as a response. Phil said currently when two rigs respond they currently are working under two medical directors. Chief Armstrong asked Chief Hartbarger if intent is to also have Whitehouse ALS response. He said yes, he is looking at peak times and making those changes only during those times. Chief Hartbarger said that with this retirement there would be days when he only has one paramedic. This would help keep his ALS unit in service.

Chief Cousino said the medical directors unanimously agree that they are ok with this. Need to hear back from Board of Pharmacy. Matt asked Craig to clarify his concerns. Dr. Lindstrom still has to define scope of practice. Does Dr. Lindstrom have to modify protocols? Waiting to hear from Board of Pharmacy. Matt asked if there is any heartburn from other jurisdictions for doing this amendment only with Chief Hartbarger's jurisdiction. No one expressed any concern by that. **Chief Ramm made a motion to amend contract effective May 1 for Whitehouse only. Chief O'Brien second. All approved.** Recommendation will now go to County Commissioners.

Modernization Update – Chief Cousino said Chief Lobo is trying to create subcommittee of fire chiefs association to discuss this as it relates to CE, supply chain, medical direction, and contacting med control. Chief Ramm said they would lean on folks with experience.

CE Update

Mark Briggs gave update on CE. At the end of April, regular CE will come to an end. May will be ACLS. Rest of the year will be completed online with one series of hour presentations on EMS1 to be completed by September. That will fill our paramedics required CE hours for the year.

EMS Billing Update

Vicki month of March 311,098.95 actual YTD 998,822.10 This is right on track with revenue budget. A bit above last year, about \$50,000 at this time.

Lights and Sirens

White paper was sent out, will be a jurisdictional decision and discussed at county chiefs meetings.

EMS Microwave Phones/Hospital notification

Dennis gave an update on these changes. Microwave system is obsolete and needs to be replaced. Red phones that go to some of the hospitals from dispatch will need to go away. That system will go away by the end of this year. Very few agencies use UHF med channels any more. Med channels have converted to 800 MHz. We have offered our EMS med channel talk groups to anyone who wants them.

Hospital Notifications

After Jan 1, 2024, RCOG is trying to streamline dispatch responsibilities. EMS pod will still be there, call screening will still happen. Moving forward assigning med channels and other housekeeping related to med channels – would cost RCOG \$1mm to handle med channels. Looking at better ways to notify hospitals of EMS arrivals. Recommendation will come from EMS TAC to this board.

Open Discussion

Chief Hartbarger accepted new position and Jason Francis will be new Whitehouse Chief.

Mike Eck - May 6 trying to put together bowling night out at All Strikes Lanes, \$30/person. Trying to fill all 36 lanes.

Adjournment

Chief Hartbarger motioned to adjourn Chief Armstrong second at 11:26 am. All approve. The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled on June 5 at 10:30am.