

Medical Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 5th, 2022

Present

Chief Barry Cousino
Chief Mike Ramm
Tim Scott, MD
Tom Boggs, M.D.
Ben Duncan

Representing

Springfield Twp. Fire
Sylvania Fire
Mercy (Zoom)
McLaren St Luke's (Zoom)
Mercy Sylvania

Staff

David Lindstrom, M.D.
Brent Parquette
Schuyler Beckwith
Dennis Cole
Mark Briggs

Medical Director LCEMS
LCEMS QA/QI
LCEMS
LCEMS Director
LCEMS CE

Attending

Derek Francis
Don Waggoner
Jean Butler
Sean Powers
Ralph Shearn
Greg Szumigala
Chief Matthew Homik
Jonathon Ziehr
Martin Fuller
Andrea Donahue
Amanda Aplin
Kristie Gallagher
Zak Reed
Chief Chris Nye
Julie Harsh
Robert DeLeon

Monclova Twp (Zoom)
Mercy Life Flight (Zoom)
ProMedica Toledo (Zoom)
Mercy Life Flight
RCOG
Toledo Fire
Monclova Twp Fire
LCEMS / Springfield Twp. Fire
Whitehouse Fire (Zoom)
ProMedica Flower (Zoom)
ProMedica Toledo (Zoom)
ProMedica Metro ED's (Zoom)
Toledo Fire
Sylvania Twp Fire Department (Zoom)
ProMedica (Zoom)
Mercy (Zoom)

Call to Order

Chief Cousino called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

Minute Approval

The minutes from the October 3rd meeting were made available for review. Dr Lindstrom moves to approve, Chief Cousino second. All approve

Old Business

Schuyler will include the code 3 white paper with the next notice.

Dr Lindstrom discussed changes at St Charles. Discontinuing OB services mid-December. Letter was send out to the chiefs and Brent is covering it in CE. Ralph is covering that with dispatch. Does not mean they won't get any OB patients, just means they won't get active labor patients or patients with OB issues. Dispatch protocols have been shared with hospitals.

Discussion on pediatric admissions and how pediatric destination hospitals will work in the future. Have heard some talk that some hospitals might want to be taken off peds. Have not been able to confirm that with any of them. Will continue as is for the foreseeable future. ALS transports nationwide run about a 65% admission rate. For Peds it's about 28% in Toledo, which is higher than expected.

Kristie Gallagher asked who is involved in these discussions. Dr Lindstrom said Beth Estep and Dr Kaminski. This consideration for Peds has been raised with both ProMedica and Mercy.

Dr Boggs said most pediatric patients go to closest facility and then get transferred if necessary. Dr Lindstrom said there has been an uptick in diversion for peds. Dr Boggs said those issues involving St Lukes are being dealt with as they happen.

New Business

Chief Cousino said there has been ongoing discussion about EMS system reform. Jon Z has been gathering information. Fire Chiefs are having conversations and more will be discussed at Policy Board Wednesday.

Chief Ramm discussed ALS downgrade that was discussed at Paramedic Committee. Zak said there continues to be some confusion about deeming versus downgrading of ALS vs BLS. Further discussion.

Dennis brought up the question about moving away from microwave system and to ATT first net which provides preemption and priority. Microwave system is very old, not sure we should invest in that system with new technologies available. Talked to Don Wagner and ProMedica has been working with cell phones and has been successful. Dr Lindstrom asked about stability of bigger network of telephone lines versus landlines? Will it be robust enough in a disaster? Ralph clarified the meaning of cell use – lifesquads still use radios. Chief Cousino asked about the time line for that? Dennis said it's in very early stages, has to get quotes from ATT, was waiting for the viper system to go in for connectivity before moving this forward.

Dr Lindstrom said there is ongoing discussion about bypass and diversion. No changes have been made but these conversations are happening. Seems that as staffing levels gradually improve in ERs the need to go on diversion has decreased. On Nov 28th there were three patients Monclova had to transport to Oregon as they were the only hospitals not on diversion. This will be looked into by Dr Lindstrom and Ralph. Will continue discussion with hospitals.

Zak read the protocol about deeming a patient BLS. Key is if the paramedic has provided ALS care. After reading it more closely Zak thinks it's clear enough as it is.

Zak asked if there has ever been conversation about creating a video platform for paramedics and first responders. Would it help with those tough to distinguish patients. Some sort of online connection to med control. Dr Lindstrom said there are secure platforms that make that possible, had this discussion during the height of COVID. Matt Heyrman had raised the idea of video conference for EMS med control. Dennis said the issue was that there are so many hospitals, any single transport unit could go to multiple hospitals and connecting with those separate systems is complicated. Zak said they've had several patients go to St Anne's and then that person is sent to another facility because they consider it a trauma. He said they are looking at video process and working with Zeph Center on mental health cases. Sean said MSU used InTouch. Getting everybody on the same platform would take time. Dr Boggs said LCEMS would have to choose the platform and require it for the hospitals. Problem is that every single hospital has a different IT department. Would be the same process that we went through with ESO. Would need IT directors involved in a subcommittee. If the county did some pre-work and found two or three platforms we could then take it to the hospitals for discussion. Dr Boggs said present one option, don't give them choices.

Dr Lindstrom said they are working on a revision on the pain management protocol. Will send to medical committee when it's finalized. Pushing the D10 out because cannot get D50. Brent has sent an email to Chiefs for distribution because we do not have CE again until January.

Open Discussion

Jon discussed issues with extended care facilities. Springfield has had conversations with three extended care facilities that they have changed their protocol to no longer call private ambulance companies. They are just calling 911. The sub-committee for extended care facilities needs to be reinstated. Dr Boggs said there is a regional meeting with ECF's and some private ambulance companies to have these discussions. Chief Cousino said we should get that group together again, should include folks from ECF administration. Andrea Donahue said she doesn't think there is still an ECF admin meeting regularly. She said that after 11pm ProMedica private ambulance is really the only ones in operation. Dr Boggs said there is a meeting in Perrysburg with local ECF's in that area.

Adjournment - With no further business, motion to adjourn at 9:35am. Motion by Dr Lindstrom, second by Dr Boggs. All approve.

The next Medical Committee meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.