

PARAMEDIC COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 14, 2022

**Members Present:**

Chief Mike Ramm  
David Brown  
Kirk Keane  
Michael Eck  
Greg Szmigala  
Lt. Zack Reed  
Craig Koperski  
Brandon Donahue  
Martin Fuller  
Sean Powers  
Rich Ellett  
Cheryl Herr  
Joe Miller  
Jean Butler  
Tim Zwayer, M.D.  
Robert Deleon  
Chief Josh Hartbarger  
Jason Francis  
Andrea Donahue  
Jonathon Ziehr

**Representing:**

Sylvania Twp. Fire Department  
Toledo Fire & Rescue  
Sylvania Fire/LCEMS  
Whitehouse – LS 9  
Whitehouse Fire / Life Flight  
Mercy Life Flight  
Maumee Fire – LS 7  
McLaren St Luke's  
Whitehouse Fire - Zoom  
ProMedica Children's Hospital - Zoom  
ProMedica Freestanding ER - Zoom  
Mercy - Zoom  
Whitehouse Fire – Zoom  
Whitehouse Fire - Zoom  
ProMedica - Zoom  
Springfield Twp/LCEMS

**Staff:**

Dennis Cole  
David Lindstrom, M.D.  
Schuyler Beckwith

LCEMS  
LCEMS Medical Director - Zoom  
LCEMS

**Absent:**

Toledo Fire – L.S. 3  
Toledo Fire – L.S. 5  
Sylvania Twp. Fire  
Oregon Fire

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chief Ramm at 9am.

**Minute Approval**

The minutes from the September 12th meeting were distributed for review. Zak Reed motioned to accept the minutes, Craig Koperski second. All approve.

## **Old Business**

The group discussed changes at St Lukes. Dr Lindstrom gave an update. They are having trouble with staffing. STEMI and RACE is ramped back up and can expect RACE to be open most of the time. Talked with new medical director to educate them on bypass and EMS issues.

Fire Chiefs are discussing transports code 2 vs code 3.

Lt Reed discussed updates to COG bypass discussion from last meeting. There are continuing communication concerns about bypass but those issues are being dealt with as it happens. Dennis said he believes there will be a CAD update this week, which will help with having 6 hospitals listed instead of 3 as closest.

Dennis said Brent is working on the list of CE next year.

Dennis said there is no update on vehicles. Chief Lobo is working on putting a rig committee together.

Craig gave an update on the bid list process. Still waiting on some contracts to be signed.

## **New Business**

Dr Lindstrom said we should discuss destination of pediatric patients. This conversation has been triggered because hospitals are getting out of the OB business. It sounds like St Charles will be getting out of OB in the near future. Also heard rumors about change in service with pediatrics. None of the hospitals except St V's and Toledo Childrens admit pediatrics. This has become much more problematic with RSV surge. Wanted to make committee aware that we're discussing how to design a protocol around these issues. Dr Lindstrom has challenged both children's hospitals to think about what would happen if both hospitals went on bypass at the same time. Do they get forced back open or do those patients go back to closest ER? Had gotten some info from Toledo on percentages of ems admits, that number was higher than expected. It's in the 40s for pediatric patients. Waiting on same data from Mercy. Chief Ramm asked how full hospitals are with RSV's? Sounds like they are very full. Trying to get those hospitals to use EM resources to differentiate between pediatrics and regular ER.

Craig said they have pushed out the EPI kits, they do need to be sealed and tracked. This is being discussed at CE.

The question was raised, if a run is dispatched as a BLS incident then a lifesquad gets requested, lifesquad arrives and wants to downgrade, do we have to contact med control – as soon as they requested the lifesquad they changed the status to ALS. For an ALS incident and the AFR rig arrives before lifesquad does paramedic have to contact med control to downgrade? Yes. Physicians end up erring on the side of caution and deem a run ALS. Also a liability and medical director difference between BLS and ALS. Dr Lindstrom said his philosophy is that something in the dispatch report or somewhere along the line triggered an ALS distinction so need to make sure that issue is cleared up by contacting med control. Individual cases should be followed up with education and we are trying to keep communication open with ER doctors to make sure they are educated as well. Chief Ramm will discuss this with Chief Cousino and will discuss this at the Medical Committee.

Deeming it BLS does not have to call med control, downgrading to BLS does have to call. Tab 100 P1 in the protocol.

Chief Ramm gave an update on the meetings that Fire Chiefs are having with Lucas County. Nothing has been decided yet, it's continuation of discussion on how best to provide EMS in Lucas County. There was some bad info getting out but no decisions have been made. He thinks it is going to take some time to come to consensus. Would recommend talking to your chief if you have questions instead of talking on the floor.

Discussion was raised on med control doctors getting upset when Paramedics ask questions on patient transports. Dr Lindstrom said they need to focus on dealing with these individuals on a case by case basis. Should put safe guards in place for the safety of patients, many things in the protocol are filters to try to improve safety. What happens when a paramedic asks for help and advice from a doc and then the doc wants to get the paramedic in trouble? This kind of thing should be reported to Dr Lindstrom.

Dennis gave an update on conversations with Perrysburg hospitals. Have not gone live on the board but are meeting with them this week. Are set-up as med channel 12. Will make sure to give you plenty of warning before they are put on the EMS board for transport.

Zak Reed asked if during long weekends or during busy times is it possible to have a locker set up with medications and supplies? Craig said they always have vending machines but something outside of that? Zak said yes. Craig said they will look at that.

Craig said the paramedic internship got approved for operating chiefs. Not sure what actually got approved. Chief Ramm will talk to Chief Hartbarger to make sure Craig gets a copy of the version that passed.

Jon said he worked with Andrea Donahue from ProMedica to clear up issues with access cards and thanked her for her help.

## **Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 by Zak Reed and seconded by Craig. All approve.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in person with virtual as an option.