

PARAMEDIC COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2023

Members Present:

Chief Mike Ramm
Kirk Keane
Kyle Wiley
Greg Szmigala
Brandon Donahue
Martin Fuller
Chris Nye
Chief Joshua Hartbarger
Rich Ellett
Alisa Roberts, M.D.
Steve Zohn, M.D.
Tim Scott, M.D.
Chief Matthew Homik
Derek Francis
Robert Deleon
Chief Josh Hartbarger
Kristie Gallagher
Jonathon Ziehr
Mark Briggs
Ralph Shearn
Julie Shawver
Alisha Fujita
Shawn Wittkop
Krista Allen

Representing:

Sylvania Twp. Fire Department
Toledo Fire & Rescue
Toledo Fire & Rescue
Toledo Fire & Rescue
Whitehouse – LS 9 - Zoom
Whitehouse Fire / Life Flight
Sylvania Twp. Fire Department – Zoom
Whitehouse Fire - Zoom
Maumee Fire – LS 7
ProMedica - Zoom
NWOEMS / Mercy - Zoom
Mercy Perrysburg - Zoom
Monclova Fire – Zoom
Monclova Fire – Zoom
Mercy - Zoom
Whitehouse Fire – Zoom
ProMedica – Zoom
Springfield Twp/LCEMS
Toledo Fire/LCEMS
RCOG
Stroke Coord, ProMedica Toledo - Zoom
Resident, Mercy – Zoom
Sylvania Twp. Fire Dept / LCEMS – Zoom
Zoom

Staff:

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

LCEMS
LCEMS Medical Director - Zoom
LCEMS
LCEMS

Absent:

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

Call to Order

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

Minute Approval

The minutes from the November 14th meeting were distributed for review. Rich Ellett make motion and Mark Briggs second. All approve.

Old Business

Chief Ramm said Matt Heyrman and Dennis have been meeting with folks and are still in discussion, no decisions about changes in EMS have been made. The proposal being discussed is that EMS will get out of the business. This would free up the system with the understanding that the first vehicle that arrives can handle the call – ALS or BLS. It is believed that this would give flexibility back to the Chiefs. The six regions being proposed are as follows:

Central – Toledo/Washington Twp

North West – Sylvania Twp/Sylvania/Richfield Twp

East – Oregon/Jerusalem Twp

West – Springfield/Spencer Twp/Harding Twp/Swanton Twp

South East – Maumee/Monclova

South West – Whitehouse/Waterville/Waterville Twp/Providence

Dr. Lindstrom asked what the purpose of recognizing regions would be. Dennis said he believes this would give each region flexibility to develop regional approaches to EMS services. They are currently looking at where the money is being spent now to identify regions. This goes beyond EMS, started having conversations with fire departments about their difficulties staffing, this may help relieve some of that issue. Marty Fuller asked about how the education and the annex would be address. Dennis said some departments have different procedures and they would like the ability to teach those to their personnel. This would give them the freedom to provide some higher-level services. Gives operational freedom to the jurisdiction to respond to their residents' needs and expectations. Chief Ramm reiterated that this is all still in discussion. If folks have questions, they should speak to their Chief because they have been in the meetings. Dennis said they are in third tier of discussions, have been connecting with administrators.

Greg Szmugula asked if this is a done deal. Dennis said they have not had direct conversations with elected officials yet. There are 13 different entities and those discussions still need to be had.

Chief Hartbarger reiterated that it is a proposal and there are many steps before any final decisions are made.

Dr. Lindstrom asked how the Chiefs feel about what to do with CE and the Annex. Chief Ramm said they have had preliminary discussions, and there seems to be advantages as far as buying power to work together with all six regions. The CE part is still in discussion. Dennis said that CE has changed as a result of COVID and National Registry allows virtual learning. Marty said his concern is that this would cause a fragmentation of a system we have worked hard to develop over all these years. Dr. Lindstrom said one of the challenges is to make sure the medical directors are on board with any changes. Dr Roberts asked about how HB 509 will affect these ideas? Chief Ramm said that is being discussed at the Fire Chiefs meetings.

Chief Ramm asked about status of Perrysburg Hospital. Brent said they went live as one of our transporting entities on Jan 3rd. There is no resupply there. Ralph said all issues are being worked through. Aiden said it is showing up appropriately for transport. Dr Lindstrom said they don't accept OB or STEMI or RACE. Ralph said they are having conversations with them about accepting stroke patients. Chief Ellett asked if it is a standalone facility or is it an ER that can take patients that could be admitted? Dennis said they're looking at it as a stand alone facility. Dispatch has it as a hospital who can accept patients. Dr Tim Scott is working with Perrysburg; they are not a RACE facility. It is not a freestanding facility and is independent of St Vincent with approximately 20 beds for admission with no OB services or dialysis. Brent said the info going out to paramedics is that they're treating it as a freestanding because there was not indication to treat it otherwise. Dennis and Brent will discuss and readjust to treat it as a hospital. Will send something out asap.

New Business

Greg asked about medical advisement concerns with Dr Lindstrom. He discussed issues with ALS vs BLS calls and an issue getting AMA approval on an incident. There seems to be a disconnect about what an AMA is which causes folks to get upset. Dr Lindstrom says he needs to know about those specific incidents so they can do education accordingly. Dr Zohn is putting together an updated training module for Mercy. Dr Zohn said they don't have any residents who are signed up to do that. Greg wants to make sure it's not indicative of a bigger issue. Dr Lindstrom said it needs to be addressed as it happens so it doesn't become one. Dr Roberts asked to make sure squads call for AMA's before they leave the patient. Brent said this process is being discussed in CE this month.

Changes in the CE schedule were discussed - ACLS is being moved to May and the last two classes for the year will be virtual. Four sessions, two hours each and medics need to complete before end of September. Will be available at the end of May. No hands on activity with those sessions. May dates will be adjusted to add an additional day. Greg asked if there are concerns about not having any CE's in the end of the year. Dennis said it was discussed but folks feel like there are still lines of communication to all paramedics.

Greg asked about expiration dates of airway devices and whether those are hard and fast dates that we need to stick by? One station reached out and found they had some expired ET tubes and sent request to annex and some of the replacements were already expired. Dr Lindstrom said it's hard to take a position that we should be using expired equipment. Should get together with annex to discuss.

Possibly looking at combining Medical and Policy meetings. Will discuss at next meeting of each.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in person with virtual as an option.