

LCEMS POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2023

Members Present:

Chief Barry Cousino
Chief Mike Ramm
Chief Clayton O'Brien
Chief Brandon Loboschefski
Chief Jason Francis
Matthew Heyrman - nonvoting member
Dennis Cole – nonvoting member
David Lindstrom, M.D. - nonvoting member

Representing:

Springfield Twp. Fire Department
Sylvania Twp. Fire Department
Oregon Fire Department
Maumee Fire Department
Whitehouse Fire Department
Lucas County Deputy Administrator
LCEMS Director
LCEMS Medical Director

Members Absent:

Mayor Michael Sefarian
Mayor Richard Carr
Trustee Robert Bethel
Mayor Donald Atkinson
Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz
Trustee John Jennewine
Chris Goliver, M.D.
Chief Allison Armstrong

City of Oregon, Mayor
City of Maumee, Mayor
Springfield Twp. Trustee
Village of Whitehouse, Mayor
City of Toledo
Sylvania Twp. Trustee
Hospital Council of NW Ohio
Toledo Fire and Rescue
Non-Operating Fire Chief

Attendees:

Chief Matthew Homik
Chief Doug Meyer
Chris Nye
Schuyler Beckwith
Vicki Schmidt
Stacey Mitchell
Chief Tony Parsilitti
Jim Dusseau
Zak Reed
Sean Powers
Tim Clapp
Dani Branum
Stephen Zohn, MD
Kristie Gallagher
Jonathon Ziehr
John Kaminski
Christopher Hoffman

Monclova Twp Fire Department
Waterville Fire Department
Sylvania Twp Fire Department (Zoom)
LCEMS
LCEMS
RCOG Director
Jerusalem Township Fire
Maumee Fire Department
Toledo Fire Department
Mercy Health Life Flight
Toledo Fire Department
ProMedica Flower (Zoom)
St Vincent Mercy EC/NWO EMS (Zoom)
ProMedica Metro EDs (Zoom)
Springfield Twp. Fire / LCEMS
Toledo Fire Department
Toledo Fire Department

Robert Deleon
Deanna Montanaro
Tammy Ohrt
Mark Mullins
Amanda Aplin
Jean Butler
Chris Richmond
Mike Sza

Mercy (Zoom)
ProMedica (Zoom)
Toledo Fire Department
Oregon Fire Department
ProMedica Toledo (Zoom)
ProMedica Toledo (Zoom)
HCNO (Zoom)
(Zoom)

Call to Order

Chief Cousino called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Minute Approval

The meeting minutes from June were distributed for review. Chief Ramm made a motion to approve the minutes, Chief Cousino second. All approved.

Committee Reports

Paramedic Committee

The draft minutes from July Paramedic Committee meeting were distributed for review. Chief Ramm reviewed those minutes. Next meeting will be Sept 18, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Medical Committee

Chief Cousino discussed the Medical Committee meeting this morning. Draft minutes will be distributed before the next meeting October 2, 2023 at 8:30 am.

EMS System Modernization

Matt Heyrman said the draft agreement is available for review. Had great discussions in each region. Tried to take all general consensus and include it in the revised contract. Goal is to create some consensus here to take back to elected leadership and really move forward.

Not much disagreement about statement of history. On page 2 section 1B requested to add EMT I language – EMT or EMT I with an EMTP qualify as an ALS unit. Two EMT I's does not count as ALS.

Section 3C about standard of service, response time – says each year the jurisdiction has to ensure that the average response time to every jurisdiction they serve has to be the same or timelier than the previous three year rolling average. Intent is to keep current service level. Chiefs are concerned if we do this eventually we can't beat the average. Matt indicated that the Commissioners may be open to other models but just want to show that we're measuring it and keeping high quality level of service. If you don't do this two years in a row, County could take money away, not the intent but included as incentive. Intend to have conversations as these are happening. O'Brien disagrees with the fact that it goes with previous three years. He took an average of all those times across county and LS time is average of 8 minutes 10 second of all LS

across the county. It was recommended that we follow FSPA Standard and use a flat standard of less than 9 minute response time. Dr Lindstrom said difficulty is that averaging jurisdictions with bigger geographical areas and population densities are drastically different. Toledo, for example, is probably quite a bit faster. If the mission is that the times don't deteriorate and we go with the longer time average the denser jurisdictions could back off their response times and still be within that 9 minute time. Is the idea that you don't want one jurisdiction to close? Matt said we want to show the community that we are tracking response times to ensure quality and timing. Want to be responsive to each jurisdictions needs. Want to be able to shift money depending on needs if response times change drastically.

Chief Cousino prefers Chief O'Briens model better because the current language could be an incentive not to do well in the first three years. Matt said it would start today looking back three years. Creating a brand new response with no data. Would look at previous response units. Need to have a standard that ensures we can report to the community. Chief Ramm said he would like to see it changed to Chief Obrien's proposal based on FSPA standards. If the ALS first response is doubled – number of units is being doubled because can use one paramedic and one EMT, the response time should be very quick.

County is saying if you want more operational control, here's the money, we want you to provide better service just don't be worse. Meet or exceed what is happening now, 9 minutes is the absolute max. Chief Obrien wants to set 9 minutes as the max, Tammy agrees. Follow NFPA standards for everything else. All about averages. Chief Cousino asked for one vote for each jurisdiction. Those in favor of moving to 9 minutes from time of dispatch to onscene benchmark raise hand. This is just a poll. Six support, no against. Matt said he will take that back for consideration. Stacy asked who is providing data, the COG does not want to do that. Eric can provide data from CAD, the County will likely have full time employees to take your report and manipulate it for distribution. Eric will have to see how the new system is set up – how to deem unit ALS, all of this is dependent on detailed discussions.

Section ALS mutual aid section – will come back to at end.

Section 5 – anticipated start date. Concern was expressed that payment isn't made until April 30th which means will be operating without payment for four months. Could county ensure payment Jan 1, or should we accommodate budget to operate for first four months. Matt would like to keep it as written. Full amount paid at once instead of quarterly. Every jurisdiction gets \$804,000 for each current life squad per region, Toledo is an outlier because they operate more than one life squad. Proposal as it is today provides the same payment in 2024 as 2023. Instead of having a 3-5 year agreement, it was agreed to use an evergreen agreement with a 2 year notice for any party to get out. No one can leave prior to Dec 31, 2026, which ensures two years with no service change. County has to have an out legally.

The County recognizes we have to identify a way for dollar amount to grow but do not want to renegotiate every year. The County recommends increases would align with sales tax increases. If sales tax goes up annual amount will go up but capped at 2% a year. But it has to be capped at the bottom also. If sales tax revenue goes down, County agrees to hold payment the same. But payments will not go up again until sales tax recovers above its previous high. This helps balance

it out. Section about growth and loss is section 5C and evergreen is last section. Chief Cousino asked when the first year the increase will be in put, Matt said it will happen right away. If sales tax goes up in 2024 it will be reflected in 2025 payment. This may need to be looked at based on actual starting dates.

Section 7B, – goal of medical committee is to bring together county operating chiefs and medical directors, voting members, additionally invited are hospitals, RCOG and RCOG Medical Director – not voting members. County wants to make sure people show up, require members show up 50% of meetings each year. Same expectations from county and fire chiefs, would like to see fire chiefs at meetings. Jurisdictions can put in list of primary and alternates to attend. Have to identify sub at beginning of the year. Dr Lindstrom asked about voting process, medical directors have 6 votes. One vote in item I, in item II each jurisdiction has one vote. They make recommendation to Commissioners.

Term of the agreement – evergreen commencing Jan 1 2024, that doesn't work for some jurisdictions. Chief Kaminski says Toledo requests June 3, 2024 to address CVA challenges. He is requesting to keep model as it exists for auto aid/mutual aid between Jan 1 and June 3, 2024. Chief Cousino said he would be happy to provide that. Chief Ramm said he is on board as well. Need to work out details for dispatch. Smaller jurisdictions have same issues about making sure we have enough staff.

What are the challenges from the RCOG? Stacy said they will be meeting right after this to discuss those challenges. Jon Ziehr said south/southwest corridor will be uncovered. Are they (Toledo) considering moving less busy life squads to cover that area? Response plans are based on each jurisdiction – specific type codes. Issue is that if you guys go Jan 1, leaves Toledo and maybe Maumee as still part of EMS dispatch. Dr Sauber asked if Lucas County EMS would dispatch closest EMS life squad even if another unit is closer - yes. Just Toledo and Maumee serving Toledo and Maumee. CAD is separated by agency. Can't recommend a life squad on fire dispatch side of CAD. It would be easier if everyone went on the same day. Dennis said they still think they can figure it out. Tammy said if the hold up is getting the 160 hours to keep your people life squad qualified, could we get rid of that? Dr Sauber said that decreases the standards of medical care to deal with a logistical problem – what is the standard going to be Jan 1 anyways? Obrien asked if we can rename the units in CAD system? Dennis said they can't do that, changing name creates a billing issue. Matt needs a policy decision from the Chiefs to have the COG start working on a solution where every suburban jurisdiction goes Jan 1 and Toledo goes June 30th – will work with COG to see if that can even happen and will come back at next meeting The group agreed to have another **Policy Board meeting August 28th at 8:30am.**

EMS Billing Update

Vicki – the July revenue was \$319,136 bringing year to date to \$2,319,882.49 which is right on target for \$4M billing projection.

Mercy Perrysburg Direct Radio Contact Update

Discussed in Medical Committee

Accident Reports

Dennis asked the Chiefs to please remind personnel to report accidents to annex with pictures and accident report.

Open Discussion

Dennis said we've had a lot of problems with mobile data computers. He ordered brand new computers for the lifesquads. They are working on getting those installed.

Adjournment

Chief Ramm motioned to adjourn Chief Kaminski second at 10:44 am. All approve.
The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled on August 28th at 8:30am.