

LCEMS POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 1, 2009

Members Present

Mary Beth Crawford, M.D. (St. Luke's)
Chief Tom Wagener for Chief Monto
Mayor Tim Wagener
Chief Daryl McNutt
Chief Bill Wilkins
Mayor Angela Kuhn
Mayor Marge Brown
Chief Barry Cousino
Marylin Yoder
Dennis Cole
David Lindstrom, M.D.

Representing

Hospital Council
Maumee Fire Department
City of Maumee, CEO Mayor
Whitehouse Fire Department
Oregon Fire Department
Whitehouse CEO
City of Oregon, CEO Mayor
Springfield Twp. Fire Department
Springfield Twp. Trustee
Lucas County Emergency Services Director
LCEMS Medical Director

Absent

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner
I. Kohli
Mike Beazley
Chief Mike Wolever
Chief Kevin Bernhard
Chief Fred Welsh
Pam Hanley

City of Toledo, CEO
Springfield Twp. CEO
Lucas County Administrator
Toledo Fire Department
Lucas County Fire Chiefs' Association
Sylvania Twp. Fire
Sylvania Twp. CEO Trustee

Attendees

Brent Parquette
Gary Orlow
Pat Moomey
Robert Boyd
Chief Jim Sedlar
Chief Richard Helminski
Captain Ken Kantura
Ed Herrick
Chief Brian Byrd
EMS Chief Martin Fuller
Jay Lowenstein
Tammy Kovacs

LCEMS QA/QI
LCEMS Manager
LCEMS Communications Manager
9-1-1 Systems Analyst
Ottawa Hills Fire Dept.
Springfield Twp. Fire Dept.
Toledo Fire Department
Toledo Fire Department
Toledo Fire Department
Whitehouse Fire Dept.
MedCorp Ambulance
Life Star Ambulance

The LCEMS Policy Board meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Dr. Crawford, Wednesday, July 1, 2009 in the Emergency Services Building.

1) Minute Approval

The minutes from the June 3, 2009 meeting were distributed for review. A motion was made by Chief Cousino and seconded by Chief Wilkins to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

2) Medical Committee Report

No meeting to report

3) Paramedic Committee Report

Chief McNutt reported this committee met June 8th and that it was a very short meeting. Brent went over CE for the month as well as CE items. The committee members also discussed Zoll and protocols. The next meeting will be held September 14th.

4) CE Update

Brent reported June CE classes finished. There is no CE in July and August. June's topic covered central venous access. The paramedics practiced hands on in the skill stations. Also covered was the billing with the changes regarding the information the paramedics have to capture.

Brent requested assistance again regarding CE attendance citing there is still not compliance with paramedics not signing up for a session and just showing up. Brent reported September's CE is ACLS which has strict adherence to instructor paramedic ratio. It will be his intent to turn away in the future those paramedics that have not signed up for a session.

Chief Wagener asked about the change in the number of CE hours required from the State. Brent reported it has changed to 83 hours per the three year period. Brent reported the National Registry requirement is the same and he stays in line with the National Registry requirements CE due to the number of paramedics who keep up that card.

ResQGard Trial – Brent reported there have been 50 uses to date with the ResQGard with favorable outcomes. He reported he has presented the data back to the manufacturer. Brent he will be presented this data at the AHA conference in Orlando in November as well as in August in Texas. Brent reported the military is stilling looking at our usage data.

5) Billing Update

Dennis Cole reported there is a delay in the start date of July 1st on billing because of issues with the Zoll component. We are now looking at July 13th. Dennis introduced Bob Boyd as the computer “guru” for the project.

Gary Orlow reported down the line MED3000 will be able to obtain billing information from the hospitals electronically. Until then, the paramedics will have to pick up the face sheets for us to submit to the billing company. Gary reported each life squad will have a folder to keep the information which will be picked up by the personnel from the Annex. We will then upload the information to the vendor. Also the life squads will carry a folder with HIPPA information to be given to each patient they carry to the hospital. These pads of HIPPA information will also be in the lockers at the hospital if they should run out.

Gary reported forms on the county web site will include FAQs, Hardship waiver forms for those patients transported that are not Lucas County residents and Notice of Privacy. Gary reported non-residents of Lucas County will receive a bill for transport. Third party insurance, Medicare and Medicaid will be billed.

Gary reported that a Lock Box has been set up at Fifth Third Bank to collect the monies.

Dennis reported we had a conference call yesterday, June 30th, with MED3000. Bob Boyd sent a sample report with the final “tweaks”. They received the information.

Brent reported during CE in June information was given to the paramedics on the billing process. Since then there have been changes to the tablet since the initial information. There is a need to get additional information to the paramedics and we are going to do a “Train the Trainer” sessions and in turn these people can pass it on to the paramedics in their departments. This training will take about 45 minutes. There is a part in the ePCR where there is a box where signatures are required which is a mandatory field. There are three ways signatures are obtained. (1) Have the patient sign; (2) Parent, Guardian or Family Member sign or (3) One of the transporting paramedics and a hospital representative at the receiving facility sign, two signatures. The paramedics will have to know what to do to finish the report because it will not let them close out until it is completed.

Rick Helminski suggested to train the CE instructors and for them to go out and instruct their constituents. Brent reported there will also be a cheat sheet made available to use. Brent reported there are three different ways to capture information regarding obtaining signatures and that is built in the tablet. Also, if there is no signature obtained, documentation needs to be made in the narrative as to why the signature was not captured.

6) Open Discussion

Dr. Crawford reported she sent a letter to the Board of Commissioners emphasizing the continuance of ALS and the life squads. (attached)

Mayor Wagener reported he had read the letter Dr. Crawford sent to the County Commissioners and reported it was very good. (letter attached) Mayor Wagener reported he would like to see everyone on the Policy Board given the opportunity to sign on and give a press release. He said this group was a powerful group of people with the chiefs and elected officials and we have looked at this issue of billing and our system requires a press release. Mayor Wagener also said the Blade has not chimed in yet. Mayor Brown said the letter was excellent. She said it would be stronger yet if we get the outlying areas to sign on this as well.

Dr. Crawford reported she suggested to allow everyone the opportunity to review it and stay on top of it and if anything pops up that is negative to address it then.

Gary Orlow reported Jeff Kish has changed the name of Rumpf Ambulance to Kish Ambulance.

The question was raised about backup life squads. Dennis reported with the heat wave we had recently, there were several problems. Springfield helped with back-up vehicles. We have agreements with them for these types of problems. Toledo Fire has also agreed to help in these types of situations. Currently we have two back up life squads. We are having a problem getting parts. There is an air conditioner condenser for Life Squad 3 and wiring problems in another. Life Squad 4 was in an accident and will be out a long time. Life Squad 7 was just in an accident and messed up the steering. Dennis said we are addressing the problems as fast as we can.

The question was raised if the Commissioners were made aware of these problems. Dennis reported the Commissioners are told when we get really bad. Mike Beazley was informed at the Administrator's meeting when we ran out of back-ups.

7) Adjournment and Next Meeting

With no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35. The next Policy Board meeting is September 2nd at 8:30 a.m.

To: Lucas County Board of Commissioners

24 June 2009

From: Mary Beth Crawford, M. D., FACEP

Lucas County EMS Policy Board

Dear Board of Commissioners,

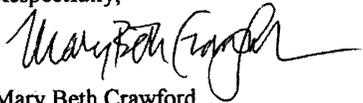
In light of the discussions initiated by Commissioner Konop regarding privatization of the Lucas County EMS advanced life support system, our board would like to identify our thoughts and recommendations.

As we reflect upon the current Lucas County EMS system, we recognize, with historical insight, the gains our system has made in regards to the optimal EMS delivery to the citizens of our community. Our system is a collaborative design providing state of the art advanced life support to our community in a timely and professional manner. Despite the current challenges in the economic climate, our focus should remain on the emergency health care needs of our Lucas county citizens.

We have the privilege of having one of the best EMS advanced life support delivery systems in the country. We have a system that through protocol development, medical direction and superb continual training education programs has established pre hospital initiatives in the areas of cardiac arrest, acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), hypothermia, and stroke that not only provide the ideal care for our citizens but also has become a model for EMS delivery nationwide.

It is the strong recommendation of this board that we continue to support our current EMS system and discontinue any discussion of privatization of any portion of Lucas County EMS.

Respectfully,



Mary Beth Crawford