

Paramedic Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2012

PRESENT

Chief Jeff Kowalski
Chief Rick Helminski
Lt. Kari Gonzalez
Dr. Daniel Schwerin
Rod Standiford
Rich Ellett
Matt Mathias
Jim Fenn
John Barnes
Nicole Knepper

REPRESENTING

Sylvania Twp. Fire
Springfield Twp. Fire
Toledo Fire EMS Bureau
St. Vincent Mercy Hospital
Sylvania Twp. Fire – LS6
Maumee Fire – LS7
Maumee Fire – LS7
Flower Hospital
180th ANGB
St. Charles Mercy Hospital

STAFF

Dennis Cole
Dr. David Lindstrom
Brent Parquette
Pat Moomey
Loren Boykin
Michael Ramm

Emergency Services Director
Medical Director
QA/QI
Communications Manager
EMS Dispatch
CE Program Administrator

ABSENT

Toledo Fire – LS1
Toledo Fire – LS2
Toledo Fire - LS3
Toledo Fire – LS4
Toledo Fire – LS5
Oregon Fire – LS8
Whitehouse Fire – LS9
Springfield Fire – LS10
Jerusalem Twp. Fire

Chief Charles Flack

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Chief Kowalski.

Minute Approval

The minutes from September 10, 2012 meeting were available for review. Chief Helminski made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by John Barnes. The minutes were approved as written.

October 15, 2012

Training

Mike Ramm reported October's CE is an update with new information required by the State. Mike reported that he and Jon Ziehr are giving the lectures this month on the topics of chest tube management and the Morgan Lens. The paramedics are introduced to the Chest Tube Monitoring in the skill stations. Also, the Lucas, medication drips and mixes. Comments have been positive this month.

QA

Dr. Lindstrom reported there is an upcoming meeting with the dispatchers to review the Clawson cards/protocols and a smattering of individual review.

Chief Kowalski asked if there are changes in the cards. Dr. Lindstrom reported in the past six to nine months, there have been some cut back in dispatching in some of the responses. We could possibly cutback on some dispatches if we had concrete information that BLS responders were staffed with paramedics.

Pat Moomey reported there will be a process in the new CAD to have computerized card system. Dr. Lindstrom reported there is a new version of updated cards that he will go over with Pat.

Dr. Lindstrom reported there are comments made by the paramedics regarding the breaking up of the departments in CE in the skill stations. Dr. Lindstrom said this is going to continue, that in the field there is cross agency work. So much of the life squad crossing over is a good plan.

Old Business

Stroke Facility – Rich Ellett brought up the issue of a designated stroke facility i.e, UTMC and where the County is with that. Dr. Lindstrom reported not any closer currently. Dr. Lindstrom reported there are at least two facilities have the procedure of coiling by pulling the clot out of the brain, which has only been in the last four months or less. Dr. Lindstrom said he has talked to two surgeons and they are not advocating diverting just yet. This could be re-thought later. Chief Helminski reported the Columbus area recommends it.

Rich voiced his concern saying they will have patients with stroke like symptoms and St. Luke's denies diversion and they will examine the patient and later the patient is transferred to a stroke facility.

St. Anne – Kari brought up the subject of St. Anne's diverting patients. Dr. Lindstrom reported that he, Dennis and Brent met with the President of St. Anne and a physician from the Emergency Department regarding this. They talked to them about trauma history of backboarded patients diverted information. The ER group management has changed and they are more involved in the calls and talking to the paramedics.

Chief Kowalski mentioned bringing these topics up is not throwing anyone under the bus, it's just to get it open and discuss and to get things done.

Power Load Lifts – Rich asked about revisiting the Power Load Lifts by Stryker citing Maumee will be purchasing them for their vehicles. Also Cincinnati has them on all of their vehicles. Dennis reported the chiefs were given a list of items for the LCEMS 2013 Budget and they came back to hold off and wait and see. Captain Benadum reported Toledo has purchased them for their new vehicles where on due in on November 1st.

Chief Kowalski suggested to wait for data from Toledo to see how that goes.

CPAP – Dr. Lindstrom reported another item on the list were CPAPs for the First Responders. Rich mention Maumee's protocols does not allow for this. Dr. Lindstrom reported we will work with each department. Brent reported the County has the item now and will be out there soon.

Paramedic Students Kari brought up the subject of paramedic students and what they are allowed to do when riding on a life squad. Dr. Schwerin mentioned in talking with Bill Montrie who is with Owens, it was up to the individual departments the medications they can push and procedures. Chief Helminski reported Springfield is affiliated with five programs and it is the responsibility of the program and they practice under the license of the paramedic. Dr. Lindstrom reported the paramedics should be able to give all ACLS drugs. A supervisor paramedic doesn't know what the student knows. The departments should get a consensus from the programs what the student can do. Mike Ramm reported when he was an instructor with the UTMC program they, the instructor, was given a program showing where the student was at in the program at a specific time.

Kari asked if there was a program or a course to be a proctor. Chief Helminski reported yes it's required. Mercy has a program headed up by Carol Harris.

Dr. Lindstrom reported his relationship is with the paramedics working under the departments and a separate contractor to be a preceptor and he is not really officially a part of that and he recognizes the process and encourages it.

A discussion of the med director's responsibilities/roles for the programs.

Kari reported an incident where a student handled a narcotic and asked if this was okay. Dr. Lindstrom reported yes if the student is trained in it.

Versed – Rod asked if the First Responders were going to be getting Versed back on the squad citing an incident of a seizure patient and not having the medication. Dr. Lindstrom reported the County has stocked up on it about six months worth. Our intention is to put it back on and follow the same process as we do on the life squads. It will be a stand alone process for the first responders and we have had no pushback from the chiefs. There will be no exchange with anyone and will be replaced by the Annex. We also have to determine a par level on the first responders.

New Business –

Dr. Schwerin reported there was an incident a month ago where a baby that was delivered was sent in by a life squad and another life squad brought in the mother. There was some confusion at the hospital and suggested that bands be put in the OB kits so mother and child are banded. Dr. Lindstrom reported he was aware of the incident and said the paramedics made the right call to have two life squads on scene.

Open Discussion

20 Minute out of service – Rod Standiford reported he would like to discuss the 20 minute time frame for the life squads. Rod cited LS6 80% of the time go to Flower Hospital with patients. There are times when there are 4-5 run reports they have to do later and it gets to be tough.

Kari expounded on the business of the call volume has increased and the documentation required and signature piece and getting the face sheet.

Dr. Lindstrom said his perception is getting the truck prepped and reloaded and ready for the next patient. Anytime paramedics are out of service other than clean up and prep risk impacting the next patient. It's not about the charting. An option for this contingency is to let Dispatch know. The priority is the patient not the paperwork. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Med Shortages – Rich asked if medication shortages still an issue. Dr. Lindstrom reported we are better off than six months ago, but still at a risk. Dr. Lindstrom reported we did get the single dose Epi in.

No Response Runs – Dennis Cole inquired in the issue of number of runs that are no response runs.

Pat reported those are BLS runs.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. The next meeting will be Monday, November 19th at 9:00 a.m.