

LCEMS POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2008

Members Present

Mary Beth Crawford, M.D. (St. Luke's)
Mayor Marge Brown
Chief Rick Monto
Chief Daryl McNutt
Mayor Angela Kuhn
Chief Barry Cousino
Chief Bill Wilkens
Assistant Chief Eisel

Representing

Hospital Council
City of Oregon, CEO Mayor
Maumee Fire Department
Whitehouse Fire Department
Whitehouse CEO
Springfield Twp. Fire Department
Oregon Fire Department
Sylvania Twp. Fire

Absent

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner
Chief Mike Wolever
I. Kohli
Mayor Tim Wagener
Pam Hanley
Mike Beazley
Chief Kevin Bernhard
Dennis Cole
David Lindstrom, M.D.

City of Toledo, CEO
Toledo Fire Department
Springfield Twp. CEO
City of Maumee, CEO
Sylvania Twp. CEO Trustee
Lucas County Administrator
Lucas County Fire Chiefs' Association
Lucas County Emergency Services Director
LCEMS Medical Director

Attendees

Brent Parquette
Gary Orlow
Pat Moomey
Chief Jim Sedlar
Captain Bill Hull
Chief Brian Byrd
Ed Herrick
Ken Kantura
Cathleen Nelson
Tammy Kovacs
David Miramontes, M.D.
Steve Memsic
Fred Isch
Jeff Kish

LCEMS QA/QI
LCEMS Manager
LCEMS Communications Manager
Ottawa Hills Fire Department
Toledo Fire EMS Bureau
Toledo Fire EMS Bureau
Toledo Fire EMS Bureau
Toledo Fire
Life Star Ambulance
Life Star Ambulance
Mercy Health Partners
MedCorp Ambulance
MedCorp Ambulance
Rumpf Ambulance

The LCEMS Policy Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Dr. Crawford, Wednesday, August 6, 2008 in the Emergency Services Building.

1) Minute Approval

The minutes from the June 4, 2008 meeting were distributed for review. With a few changes a motion was made to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

2) Medical Committee Report

Chief Cousino reported the next Medical Committee meeting is scheduled for August 11th at 8:00 a.m.

3) Paramedic Committee Report

Chief McNutt reported the committee met June 9th. Brent went over the ICE protocols. Items for discussion included the 20 minute inservice time, rigs and their problems with compressors, adding equipment to the wish list, STEMI, the amount of information given out on the protocols, and 800 MHz radios. The Paramedic Committee meeting is August 11th at 9:00 a.m.

4 CE

Brent Parquette reported the paramedics did not have CE July and August. September's topic is trauma. October is the remaining month for CE this year. Brent reported he is in the process of updating the system protocols by reformatting and streamlining them. The concern in class is that its too much too soon with the new format. Brent reported there will be some changes in treatment, but not dramatic.

Brent reported the paramedics are trialing the ResQGuard. To date there have been 21 uses with favorable outcomes. The company gave LCEMS 50 to trial. Brent reported he is capturing the information and giving it to Terry Provo and she will present the information at the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) annual meeting being held January 22-24 in Jacksonville Florida. Brent reported we are currently the only system in the world using the ResQGuard. Brent reported once the company gets our information, they will trial with another system before deciding whether or not to put it on the market.

5 Open Discussion

Gary Orlow reported the Commissioners were given the changed private ambulance contracts showing the increased caps on BLS and ALS runs. This increase is needed due to the rising cost of medical supplies and fuel. This agenda item was tabled at yesterday's meeting. Gary reported Mike Beazley, the County Administrator told him he didn't seem this to be a problem. It was because it had been so many months since the Commissioners had been polled, they forgot. Gary Orlow reported Jeff Kish sent a letter to Dennis Cole to be provided to this committee. Jeff Kish read the letter (**attached**)

Jeff reported to help cut costs at his company, steps have been initiated, such as crews are not to leave quarters, other than for meals and they are not allowed to idle at the hospital or to make personal trips.

Gary Orlow asked with the increase in fees, what percent to the public are additional dollars would affect their pocket. Jeff Kish reported 100% direct pay and 40% billed. It was reported private ambulance companies cannot soft bill. Mayor Brown asked what do Medicare and Medicaid pay. Jeff reported Medicare pays \$300.00 plus \$6.00 per mile and Medicaid pays \$87.00 plus \$1.65 per mile. Jeff reported prior to Toledo Fire going into the transport business, the private companies receive 40% no pay patients, now they receive 82% no paying patients. Jeff reported with Toledo Fire going into the transport business, 74% go to Toledo Fire with the remaining 26% going to the private companies.

Chief Byrd reported he would like to comment on the issue mentioned in the 3rd paragraph of Jeff Kish's letter regarding Toledo Fire not providing transportation for OB, domestic violence injuries, assault injuries and shoplifting related injuries. Chief Byrd reported when Toledo Fire first went into the transport business it was for BLS runs only with an agreement not to transport ALS runs. OB was considered by Toledo Fire as an ALS type code. Once they realized these runs were "tweeners", dispatch procedures were changed and on any run where no life squad is sent, if available, TFD rescue transport will be sent.

Dr. Miramontes reported "Toledo Fire and Rescue Division and especially Chief Wolever is keenly aware that there is and will be an impact upon the private ambulances. Toledo Fire did not attempt to capture ALL BLS runs in the City with the initial set up to the Rescue Transport program. There is still a very great need for private ambulances to continue to serve the residents and visitors in the City of Toledo. Several command decisions were made to lessen some of the negative impacts such as the placement of three of the five Rescue Transport Units downtown.

Furthermore, when a non transport Toledo Fire unit is on scene or a life squad downgrades a call through medical control and BLS transport is needed then a private ambulance is dispatched through Lucas County EMS by established grid protocol. A TFD Rescue Transport would not be dispatched by protocol if they were not sent on initial dispatch of the run. If no private ambulances are available then and only then will a TFD Rescue Transport be utilized in this scenario. If an ALS type code run does not have a life squad sent by EMS after the caller is interrogated then dispatch will send the next closest Rescue Transport with the initial First Responders. If no private ambulances are available then and only then will a TFD Rescue Transport be utilized in this scenario.

By department protocol, there is no intentional "cherry picking" of patients. If a TFD Rescue Transport is dispatched to a BLS run, they are expected to do just that...transport the patient if needed. There is not to be any hands off to private ambulances on a whim.

Many of the freeways in which car accidents occur in the City of Toledo are in fact in the first and adjacent response districts for four of the five Rescue Transport Units and, as such, that may explain Mr. Kish's perception that his company is losing transports coming from MVA's. Toledo Fire did not deploy it's Rescue Transports to exclude certain runs from the private ambulance

companies, but rather placed them in the areas of greatest need by run volume and to provide the best geographic coverage. We anticipate a complete review of the dispatch, operational and quality assurance policies pertaining to the TFD Rescue Transport program after this October. The Chief wanted one full year of operation and then a thoughtful review of any issues or problems so as to improve service to the community and attempt to mitigate any negative impacts.

The timely dispatch of Rescue Transports has led to better continuity of care, less time spent on scene, faster turn around times for fire first responder apparatus and improved customer satisfaction.”

A very lengthy discussion of dispatching, rules and transport business ensued.

Dr. Crawford reported private discussions need to be done outside this committee with some board members and Dr. Miramontes. Dr. Crawford reported we are all part of a system and our goal is to care for the members of the community for medical care.

Gary Orlow reported there are some changes in the number of private ambulance stations. Life Star has closed two stations and MedCorp is moving a station. Gary reported this is not the first for closures and the number of stations are declining.

Brent reported he has done a brief statistical analysis of the ICE protocol. For 60 days, there has been 44 cardiac arrest patients, we had ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation) on 19 patients and initiated the ICE protocol on 8 patients. The ROSC rate prior to introduction of new CPR changes and ResQPOD use was 15%. After recent review, LCEMS ROSC rate is 43%. Brent reported he believes this will continue. The age group is all above the age of 18 with the average of 63. A neurological data outline will be developed in the future.

Chief McNutt asked if the budget this year will support the purchase of four new rigs. Gary Orlow reported there is money in the budget, but it will depend on the amount of money coming in from the taxes. Gary reported there was a vendor in the area that had a “walk thru” van type vehicle. The actionary in the back is bigger than what we have now. An annex person did a test drive and reported it rode substantially better. The vendor reported they are selling 80% now of that type of Ford. Gary reported it worthwhile to look at. He said he is still receiving comments on the sway on the chassis and the larger tanks for the compressors.

Fred Isch from MedCorp reported the 6 liter Ford chassis has a horrific engine and he has replaced six of them and they are currently in a class action suit along with Detroit EMS against the company.

6) Adjournment and Next Meeting

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m. The next scheduled Policy Board meeting is September 3rd at 8:30 a.m.

August 5, 2008
Lucas County EMS Advisory Board

Dear Board Members;

Today, I am asking that this letter be read at this advisory board meeting and be made a part of the public record. The intent of this letter is to bring a "Public Safety" issue To the attention of the Lucas County Commissioners, this board and the general public.

As of the commissioners meeting of August 5, 2008, the commissioners would not approve new contracts for private ambulance companies citing their desire to know what steps private ambulance companies are taking to conserve our fuel usage. With the exception of completely revamping our fleets to alternative fuels, such as propane at astronomical expense, all possible conservation steps have been taken. Furthermore, simultaneous dispatch with the Sylvania jurisdiction with multiple cancellations after traveling in many instance 11 to 15 miles one way is a continuing problem.

The most obvious problem is the entrance of The Toledo Fire Department into ambulance transport. The fact that Toledo Fire does not participate in the Lucas County Ambulance distribution process is the biggest obstacle to fuel preservation. Their non participation has resulted in very large cutbacks in private ambulance resources available in Toledo and the remainder of the county. Couple their non participation with their in-house dispatch protocols that has the Toledo Fire Department not providing transportation for Obstetrical Emergencies, Domestic Violence injuries, Assault Injuries and Shop lifting related injuries and not only does the Lucas County EMS system have a discriminatory response issue through no fault of their own. The ultimate result is increased fuel consumption by private ambulances to transport these mostly non paying incidents, which will result in more cutbacks by the private companies hastening the onset of a "Public Safety Crisis".

The "Public Safety Crisis "is as follows. During specific periods of time on a daily basis, this city and county are without sufficient private ambulance resources to handle the ever present demand. In certain instances as in the case of the July 5 apartment complex fire, the City of Toledo Fire division had to rely on all the private ambulance companies to provide first response for the entire city. Continued discriminatory dispatch protocols by the Toledo Fire Department will result in even more cutbacks by the private ambulance companies and ultimately when a true disaster occurs, the City of Toledo as well as the County of Lucas will fail dismally in their ability to transport victims in a timely and safe manner. Furthermore much of our fuel consumption is the result of during the aforementioned periods having to send our ambulances as far as from Point Place to Southwyck Mall with lights and sirens, gobbling up fuel and endangering the lives of our crews as well as the general public only to find out that the incident has been cleared and we are cancelled upon arrival. Trip like these are happening to all private companies criss-crossing this city and county because of the actions of the Toledo Fire Department and acceptance of their approach by this board, the Lucas County Commissioners, Lucas County EMS and The administration and council of the city of Toledo. To avoid

potential serious injury or death to EMS personnel and the general public, this board must immediately take action to rectify this "Public Safety Hazard".

Jeff Kish
President/Owner
Rumpf Ambulance