

LCEMS POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2023

Members Present:

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

Representing:

Springfield Twp. Fire Department
Sylvania Twp. Fire Department
Toledo Fire and Rescue
Oregon Fire Department
Maumee Fire Department
Whitehouse Fire Department
Oregon City Administrator (Zoom)
Lucas County Deputy Administrator
LCEMS Director
LCEMS Medical Director

Members Absent:

Mayor Richard Carr
Trustee Robert Bethel
Mayor Donald Atkinson
Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz
Trustee John Jennewine
Chris Goliver, M.D.

City of Maumee, Mayor
Springfield Twp. Trustee
Village of Whitehouse, Mayor
City of Toledo
Sylvania Twp. Trustee
Hospital Council of NW Ohio

Attendees:

Chief Matthew Homik
Chief Doug Meyer
Chief Tony Parasiliti
Jeff Bennett
Chris Nye
Schuyler Beckwith
Vicki Schmidt
Stacey Mitchell
Ralph Shearn
Jim Dusseau
Zak Reed
Kirk Keene
Tim Clapp
Stephen Zohn, MD
Kristie Gallagher
Jonathon Ziehr
Mark Briggs
Robert Deleon

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

Mark Mullins
Jean Butler
Chris Richmond
Pam Jensen
Tim Zwyer, MD
Nick Sauber, MD

Oregon Fire Department
ProMedica Toledo (Zoom)
HCNO (Zoom)
HCNO (Zoom)
ProMedica Freestanding EC (Zoom)
TFD Medical Director / Mercy SV (Zoom)

Call to Order

Chief Cousino called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Minute Approval

Minutes from August 7 were provided for review. Chief O'Brien motioned to approve, Chief Ramm second. All approve.

EMS System Modernization

Revised regional ALS agreement

County was asked to respond to whether they would be supportive of moving to NFPA 9 minute from dispatch to response. County is supportive of that and will change the draft. Chief Lobo asked what the current response time was based on? Dr. Lindstrom said it was based on the national consensus of 8 minutes at that time, not sure the exact document.

Outside jurisdictions looking at Jan 1, 2024 and Toledo looking at June 3, 2024. Dennis discussed their meeting on how to make EMS reform work for mutual aid and dispatch between Jan and Jun. Outside jurisdictions looking at Jan 1, 2024 and Toledo looking at June 3, 2024. Best solution is to place all EMS response units under fire dispatch. Toledo's life squads would still be listed as life squads all the other jurisdiction life squads would become fire department units. Toledo's will convert Jun 3rd. This option eliminates the EMS CAD agency, which allows CAD to look for closest available mutual aid unit.

Need Chiefs to establish an "X" time to identify response within the region vs requesting an outside mutual aid unit. Eric discussed two measurements that need to be decided. If current response time is X and the next unit can save X amount of time, then we will send that unit. It would still go back to original ALS unit if mutual aid response can't save time. Chief Cousino asked if we could keep them coded the way they are. He said switching them over to fire units will force them to respond to Toledo a lot of the time. Once you move them to Fire agency they're ALS units. Eric said it will still look for a central ALS unit, as long as that unit is within the X times, only goes to substitution if closest unit is over X time. Chief Cousino ask Toledo Fire if they are looking to move LS 11 to southwestern region to address their response hole? Dennis said Toledo intends engines to be ALS, so they will still have an ALS person on scene. Dr. Lindstrom said when he and Ralph went through type cods there are 2 or 3 today that are higher type codes, cardiac arrest etc, could we have shorter priority response time for higher priority calls requiring two Paramedics? Eric said current system could not do that. Ralph said

we can flag those thru EMD but not based on type code/time. Chief Lobo asked if X times apply countywide? Eric said X time is based on jurisdiction, set in response plan because each jurisdiction has own response plan. If you use 9 minute in Toledo, will it work in Providence? Initial dispatch today is closest available unit. In future it will look within jurisdiction first. Matt said discussions about X time needs to be very strategic between jurisdictions if we don't go for an X time for the whole county.

Matt highlighted that it is almost Sept and time is slipping away. Want to be careful that when we go live, we do not end up with situation where Springfield, Maumee, Monclova or Sylvania Twp are not consistently being pulled into Toledo and the community feels the strain. Need to be aware of the consequence of that. Realistic timeframe of when COG can make changes. They have asked each chief to schedule a meeting with them in September to review response plans. RCOG needs those September meetings to happen to meet the Jan 1 deadline.

Chief Cousino said he would support setting a mutual aid standard at 12 minutes. Chief O'Brien said 12 minute time makes sense for between Jan and June. As long as a medic responds and is on scene to start ALS, the transport unit could take longer. On cardiac arrests will send a second unit. Matt Heyrman clarifies that they need two numbers from chiefs - number that triggers the mutual aid, and the number of minutes it saves. Matt said they need to look at how to change that section of the contract. Do not want to define those numbers in the contract. Jon said Chiefs drive these changes, can we make a few changes for Jan 1 - June 3. Is there a better way to do this than go Jan 1 and wait for 20 minutes for a transport unit? Dennis said there's operational issues following that path i.e. Paramedic and EMT on the same unit with different medical directors/protocols. In addition, if chiefs cancel the lifesquads EMS won't be able to exist because because of loss of funding source.

Chief Cousino said they are responding 1-3 times a day outside their jurisdiction now and they're already hearing negative comments from community members. Don't want it to get worse. Chief Armstrong asked for some real world examples. She asked if Eric could put some examples of runs we've had together to give us some real world examples. Stacey said they could put together a training group with examples. Eric said it is a lot of work to set this up so if they do that training they will not meet Jan 1 deadline. Jon said he would work with Zak Reed on gathering response times for hotspots in southwest area.

Discussion about ALS response vs ALS transport, Toledo's engines are ALS capable but their medic units are not ALS for transport. If a BLS medic unit responds ALS personnel rides on that unit to make it ALS. Chief Parasiliti said for Jerusalem his units are not logging in at all, when they respond they can choose whether they are ALS or BLS, their agreement with Oregon, his unit will respond if he has ALS capable and cancel Oregon. If they're deemed that they don't have it then Oregon will supply medic. They call via radio to let everyone know their capability. Outside jurisdictions looking at Jan 1, 2024 and Toledo looking at June 3, 2024. Greg can map out the radius from each station to figure out if the life squad times. 12 minutes and 2 minutes - Chiefs will talk and get back to us within 2 weeks. Eric said he does not think this should be county wide because these numbers may not work countywide. Chief Ramm and Chief Cousino will talk about their jurisdictions. Chief Meyer suggested chiefs meet briefly after this to discuss.

One CAD Incident Number – A request was made to consider a change to use one incident number per incident based on the dirt rather than having a different incident number for each responding jurisdiction. This would save a lot of dispatcher time not having to create new incidents for each responding department. Departments would be able to pull their information from CAD incident number via ESO. Would have to get access to pull data from ESO. Should be able to pull it based on unit number. Jon said he cautions that when folks were under EMS systems they would steal each other's incidents to create reports. Becomes a mess if boots on the ground do not do their work efficiently. Need to only pull their data in and set shift appropriately. Chief Parasiliti asked whose incident number it is - Stacey said the incident number is created based on where the dirt is. Based on mutual aid, some numbers will go down but if a jurisdiction gets a lot of mutual aid, their numbers will go up. Decision made to table it for future discussion.

Response Plan Updates - there has been a formal request for Chiefs to sit down with Eric and Ralph. Eric said they will look at response plans for medical calls and how going to run in the future with EMS reform. Will discuss unit and time parameters, will need to start setting stuff up ahead of time to go Jan 1. Will also need to talk about structure fires if requesting an ALS unit and if they say send three engines that may pull all staff for the engines and then cannot resource an ALS unit. Do we need to change it to send a medic unit first then engines?

Information from Medical Director Meeting - Chief O'Brien gave an update. They came to the conclusion that there will not be a common ALS protocol for whole county. None of them believes that this reduces the standard of care in the county. Could possibly be a county wide standard for BLS protocol. The group would like to only be contacted for specific issues as they happen. Each department will have own medical director. The contract does not say you need to have a specific brand of equipment but have to have minimum equipment to qualify as an ALS unit. Currently Annex personnel can generate the list. Dr. Lindstrom said he's not worried about pharmaceuticals but more concerned about the equipment list. His heartburn is future budget issues. Medical directors do not want to change their policy but will share it. Need to make sure some of the budget goes toward maintaining high standard of care and potential new medical treatment developments. County's expectation is that medical directors would get together as changes are happening. Chief Cousino said he agrees that there needs to be a minimum list that is general to maintain a minimum standard of care. They are fine having the Medical Committee meeting as scheduled.

Open Discussion

Chief Parasiliti asked if Toledo Hospital has gone to trial period. Dennis said they are still working on scheduling a meeting with appropriate parties.

Matt asked if there has been any conversation about future of CE. Chief Obrien said they did talk about that, departments that share a medical director can do CE together, but each jurisdiction will be responsible for coordinating their own CE program.

Next meeting will be September 12th at 9am. Schuyler will send invite. Meeting adjourned at 10:20am.