

LCEMS POLICY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2009

Members Present

Mary Beth Crawford, M.D. (St. Luke's)  
Chief Richard Monto  
Chief Daryl McNutt  
Chief Bill Wilkins  
Chief Fred Welsh  
Mayor Angela Kuhn  
Mayor Marge Brown  
Mayor Tim Wagener  
Chief Barry Cousino  
Chief Mike Wolever  
Chief Kevin Bernhard  
Dennis Cole  
David Lindstrom, M.D.

Representing

Hospital Council  
Maumee Fire Department  
Whitehouse Fire Department  
Oregon Fire Department  
Sylvania Twp. Fire  
Whitehouse CEO  
City of Oregon, CEO Mayor  
City of Maumee, CEO Mayor  
Springfield Twp. Fire Department  
Toledo Fire Department  
Lucas County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Lucas County Emergency Services Director  
LCEMS Medical Director

Absent

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner  
I. Kohli  
Mike Beazley  
Pam Hanley

City of Toledo, CEO  
Springfield Twp. CEO  
Lucas County Administrator  
Sylvania Twp. CEO Trustee

Attendees

Brent Parquette  
Gary Orlow  
Pat Moomey  
Chief Jim Sedlar  
Captain Ken Kantura  
Ed Herrick  
Chief Brian Byrd  
David Miramontes, M.D.  
Tom Eisel  
EMS Chief Martin Fuller  
Steve Memsic  
Jay Lowenstein  
Jack Morash  
Tammy Kovacs  
Kent Appelhans

LCEMS QA/QI  
LCEMS Manager  
LCEMS Communications Manager  
Ottawa Hills Fire Dept.  
Toledo Fire Department  
Toledo Fire Department  
Toledo Fire Department  
TFD/Mercy Partners/Metro Fire  
Sylvania Twp. Fire Dept.  
Whitehouse Fire Dept.  
MedCorp Ambulance  
MedCorp Ambulance  
ProMedica Ambulance  
Life Star Ambulance  
Life Star Ambulance

The LCEMS Policy Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Dr. Crawford, Wednesday, May 6, 2009 in the Emergency Services Building.

**1) Minute Approval**

The minutes from the April 1, 2009 meeting were distributed for review. A motion was made by Chief Monto and seconded by Assistant Chief Cousino to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

**2) Medical Committee Report**

Dr. Lindstrom, on behalf of Chief Cousino reported the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Brent gave a report on CE topics and reviewed the CE comments. Brent reported the changes to the protocols and medications. Paramedics will be able to give Versed to post intubation patients for sedation. Dr. Lindstrom reported the paramedics will be taught the Cincinnati stroke scale. CE also reviewed the use of Magnesium Sulfate in the eclamptic patient.

Dr. Lindstrom reported Advanced Circulated Systems, which is the developer of the ResQPOD and the ResQGARD have asked us to street trial the CirQLATOR. Dr. Lindstrom reported this device is possibly the next step in cardiac resuscitation. The device has been FDA cleared and will go through an IRB process to allow hospital data retrieval to publish the findings. A second piece of equipment we are trialing with LS5 and 6 is a thumper named LUCAS made by JOLIFE. Brent is training paramedics at those two stations, as the device will only be available to trained paramedics.

Dr. Lindstrom reported we will be implementing the MAD device (Mucosal Atomizer Device). LCEMS will implement nasal administration of four medications, initially: Midazolam (Versed), Diazepam (Valium), Glucagon and Fentanyl. Narcan is also appropriate for MAD but we will need to postpone pending a cost-effect formulation on our drug license. MAD will save some incremental amount of money and allow Life Squads to treat some patients quicker without needing to establish an IV.

There was discussion of the ICE protocols and Cheryl Herr reported very positive outcomes on St. Luke's patients.

Gary made a report on the RFP billing process. Cheryl Herr had questions regarding the ePCR reports and some managers not being able to get on line to obtain. She asked for an educational piece at their next nurse managers meeting and Brent or Dr. Lindstrom will provide.

There was also a long discussion regarding the 20 minute out of service time and Ken Kantura's concerns voiced.

Quality – Dr. Lindstrom gave a verbal report of information from the April LCEMS Dispatch CQI review. This committee does actual tape reviews and also reviews the application and usage of the MPDS cards for our system. The focus of review was on three infrequently used MPDS cards plus falls for geriatric patients. The cards reviewed were: Anaphylaxis, Fumes and Burns, Falls- geriatric and Seizures.- first time. Calls and cards were reviewed with no changes recommended to three cards. The fall card for geriatric trauma was reviewed and there was unanimous support to revise the level of recommended response, effectively changing these calls to a first responder run, not ALS. These calls have been resulting in cancellation of the Life Squad by the First Responders.

### **3) Paramedic Committee Report**

Chief McNutt reported this committee met April 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee also covered QA and CE. We had discussion regarding the back-up med box. This committee also discussed the 20 minute out of service time. Chief McNutt reported he told them this issue was brought up at the Policy Board meeting in the past and nothing was changed. A Toledo Fire chief needs to present this issue to the EMS Policy Board again for discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

Dr. Lindstrom gave his perception regarding 20 minute in-service issue. Dr. Lindstrom explained the paramedics have the ability to let Dispatch know if they need more time to clean or restock, but not to do reports. With the ability to do reports from the ePCR, we are currently focused on accuracy and completeness of documentation. With the older paper chart this was not a feasible review. It is repeatedly made known in CE to have proper documentation so we can analyze data.

Dr. Crawford asked if there is anything we can do to help the process.

Dr. Lindstrom reported there are a lot of factors to consider, i.e., the system is busier, the transfer of care to hospitals need to be timely and may be delayed by hospital volumes and LCEMS continues to focus on being more efficient with existing budget constraints.

Chief Wolever brought up the issue of the 20 minute time at the hospital. He cited reports and data are important.

Dennis Cole reminded the Board again of why this was put in place. He cited the outlying areas, east and west, having to come in to cover when resources are busy which increases the response time to be able to get back to their areas. It's a time issue. Secondly, minimizing the use of private ambulances to cover life squads when they are all busy. The impact to increase the time is to reverse those two.

Chief Wolever isn't the real job taking care of patients, not paperwork.

Dr. Lindstrom reported we are challenging the system to be more efficient and trying to achieve both objectives.

Dr. Miramontes discussed drop time and the three inner hospitals.

A lengthy discussion regarding hospital delays.

Dr. Lindstrom discussed having Toledo Fire reconsider having a paramedic supervisor or 122 to help address some of these issues, i.e., with the hospital or personnel issues to contact a street supervisor.

Dr. Crawford noted it is recognized there are many factors involved and we should start isolating the specific times.

- Awareness – Hospitals, recognize urban centers are more problematic.
- Letter to the nurse managers and ER chairman to make them aware.

Dr. Crawford mentioned we see too many patients too fast and to exactly document in real time is not commonplace. There is the need to take notes. Keep key pieces of information to refresh your mind so you can do the report later.

Chief Welsh suggested along with the letter to the nurse managers is to make personal contact.

Chief Wilkins reported the hospital is a small part of the issue. He said in dealing with ten life squads there is a need to have fifteen. Drawing squads from other directions makes the response time to go up. This is a big issue for the future taking place in the county with more patients. He asked if there will be an increase in the number of squads to be increased with the money that will be generated with the billing.

#### **4) CE**

Brent reported he has been working on the major revisions to the protocols and he is continuing to update the paramedics in CE with scenarios. The paramedics will be introduced to the MAD device in May and the approved four medications used in the device. Dr. Lindstrom reported he would like to add Narcan to the list, but currently it is too expensive at this time.

Dr. Crawford asked Dr. Lindstrom to consider the use of Naloxone for the hospice protocol due to the increase of hospice population.

#### **5) Billing RFP Bid**

Due to ongoing contract negotiations, this item was tabled for Executive session.

#### **6) Open Discussion**

Mayor Brown brought up the issue of privatizing EMS that Commissioner Konop is going around discussing. Mayor Brown reported two weeks ago her city administrator had a scheduled meeting with Joe Vardon regarding Commissioner Konop and his issue of privatizing EMS and the monies not used for EMS could go to scholarships. She said a letter went to the privates asking for proposals to run EMS. She said she remembers the time when fire personnel were out on the corners pushing the ¼ % sales tax to fund EMS. She said she thinks this committee needs to make a stand.

Mayor Wagener said he also met with Mr. Vardon. He was told Commissioner Konop would not discuss this with his fellow commissioners and uses the Sunshine Law so he doesn't have to talk to them about this issue.

Mayor Brown cited the dates of when the EMS Board was first developed and then how this Board was established in April 2004. She said this Board was the eyes and ears of EMS and we need to stay unified. She wanted everybody to be made aware that Commissioner Konop is going from community to community to discuss this.

Dr. Crawford said she is not political and it seemed reasonable to her to request a meeting with Commissioner Konop to educate him on the relevant local issues of EMS and the quality of care our paramedics give from a non political level.

Mayor Wagener noted Commissioner Konop is researching privatization and the EMS Policy Board should wait to see what his policy recommendation will be before we respond.

Chief Welsh said we need to know what the privates are going to do with this.

Chief Wolever suggested sending a letter to Commissioner Konop to invite him to this Board meeting and have him give his presentation.

Jay Lowenstein mentioned the quality of care by the private ambulance paramedics vs. LCEMS paramedics is just as good. We provide 911 services to other communities and are more regulated. Dr. Crawford reported she did not mean to offend anyone she just wanted it known Lucas County was in the forefront nationally of such things as cardiac resuscitations and the ICE protocol.

Dr. Miramontes brought up the issue of utilization of life squads.

Life Squads:

1. What are LCEMS unit hr utilization for Life Squads...analysis may dictate adding a 10 or 12 hr Life Squad to cover peak or better yet Life Squad addition at TFD Station 3 and Station \$
2. GIS information needed for life Squad runs and response times. Engine 11, 4, 14 and some Engine 23 runs have long response times.
3. Exactly what are Municipal resources for Back up as Life Squads
4. What are Unit hr utilization numbers for privates as Life Squads are there any available when we need them?
5. How many Privates do we really have as backups? Each afternoon their availability plummets as hospital discharges ramp up.
6. What is true "drop time" Time arrival at hospital to patient off cot and available for service?

#### Municipal EMS Partners

1. Do we have some non-traditional BLS and ALS responders available that we have not utilized?  
Sheriff, Municipal Police, Park Rangers, Coast Guard, Twp and County employees in Roads, etc..  
They may just need communications and equipment to function in rural areas not adequately serviced now.
2. What are the capabilities per hour of Municipal and Twp Fire and EMS Partners?  
Why not use them as Back Up Life Squads.....let them bill to cover additional cost?  
Most have County EMS equipment, CE attendance and protocols!!!!!!
3. What is true picture of our ALS response capabilities.....Can we cut back to EMT and one Paramedic on Life Squads if we have sufficient Paramedics on First response units?
4. What are Municipal Transport capabilities? First responder medics and Municipal resources-Life Squad?

#### **7) Adjournment and Future Meeting**

Mayor Brown made a motion to go to Executive Session, which was seconded by Mayor Wagener. The regular Policy Board adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next scheduled Policy Board meeting is June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 am.